

Phoenix Home & Garden  
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Understated Elegance



# PHOENIX HOME & GARDEN

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The sprawling backyard of this Arizona home invites with an abundance of amenities. Shaded by lipo trees, the classic-style pool features diving fountains along its sides and a gushing water feature at the far end. The wide covered patio, with its large stone-clad fireplace and comfortable furnishings, accommodates gatherings of family and friends.

# UNDERSTATED *Elegance*

*New Interiors Add Another Layer of Beauty to a Home's Fine Architecture and Garden Areas*

BY ROBERTA LANDMAN ■ PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL WOODALL



A pair of Chinese elm trees and terra-cotta pots draw the eye to the entry of this charming home. Its exterior is lush with Lady Banks' roses, and its facade features cantona-rimmed archways leading to a wood-and-glass-paned entry door. The residence was designed to tie indoor spaces to outdoor areas. French doors from the dining room (left) and home office (right) lead to twin low-walled courtyards.

**SET BACK ON A TREE-FRINGED** acre-plus lot, this residence—with its multiple courtyards—seems a kissing cousin of vintage European homes. Only a craggy mountain peaking behind backyard trees betrays the fact that this scene exists in Arizona.

The decade-old Paradise Valley house and separate guest quarters—an Old World Basque union of Spanish and French style—were designed by Phoenix Home & Garden Master of the Southwest architect Mark Candelaria, AIA, and built by MRA Custom Homes. The lush grounds were conceived by landscape designer Jeff Berghoff.

Under new ownership, the property retained its original graciousness both inside and out and gained an additional measure of charm from interior designer Beth McGehee. She was engaged by the homeowners to revitalize the interior with furniture, art and accessories that speak of their personalities and preferences.

Candelaria had incorporated several signature details into what became McGehee's "canvas." For example, deep-set clerestory windows here and there bring in shafts of daylight, and a variety of ceiling configurations fulfill the architect's purpose of "creating delight—a certain look or feel."

Against this background, McGehee fashioned an understated design scheme of Traditional, mostly custom furniture in a soft, neutral palette; she punched this up with tones of cinnamon, rust, chocolate and cream.

"We layered our backdrop with high-quality furnishings, rugs and art, while still maintaining comfort—which was a priority for the homeowners," McGehee explains.

It was the tree-shaded outdoor landscape that first attracted the current homeowners to the property. "My husband and I fell in love with the home when we first saw it from the street," recalls Kelly

Paquette. And, she adds: "It seems that no matter where one stands in the home, there is a nice view to a garden outside or an architectural element on the inside."

Along with McGehee, the original builder was called upon again to spiff up the house for its latest residents.

Overall, the contributions of these professionals and of gardening experts—who care for this mini estate's stunning greenery—resulted in a fine place to call home, according to the lady of the house.

"We had high expectations, which were exceeded," she comments. ■

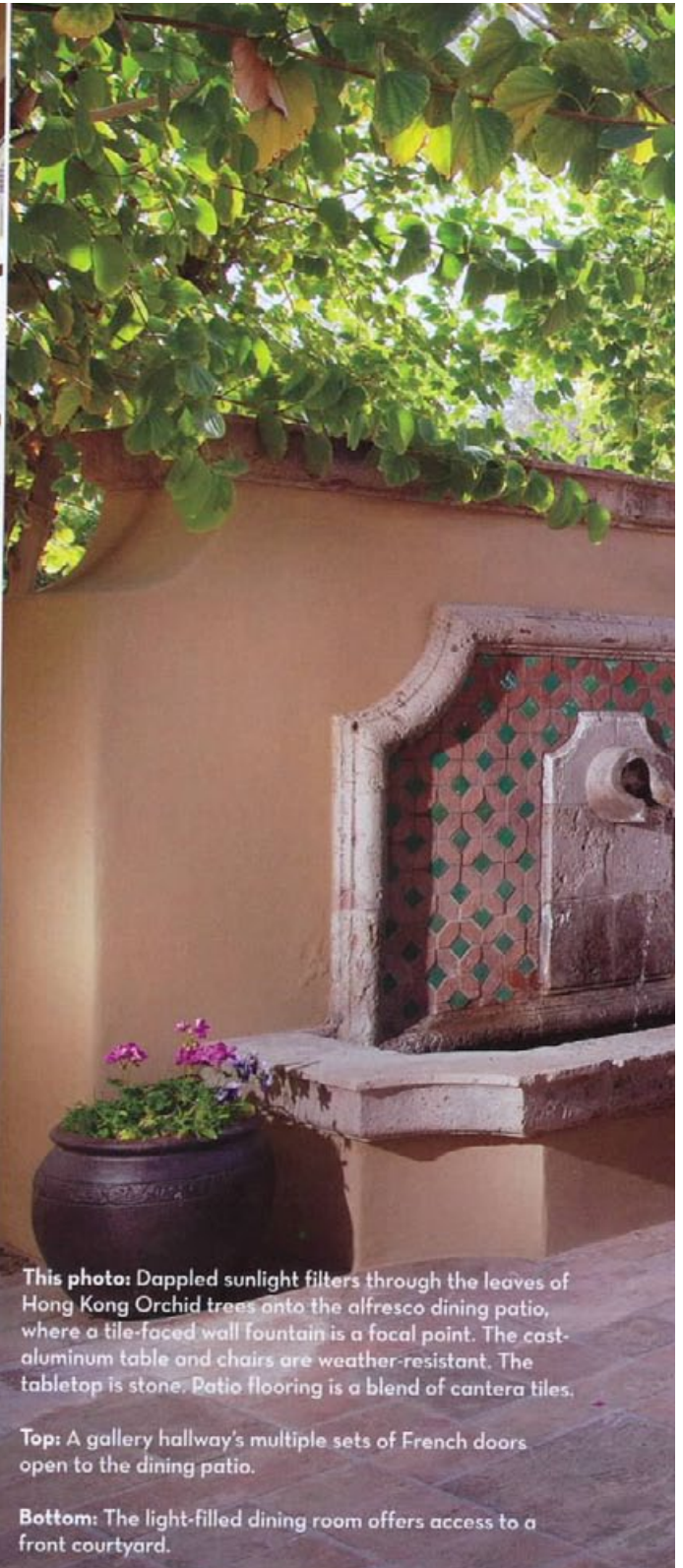




**Opposite:** As in other rooms, inspiration for the high-ceilinged living room's quiet neutral palette is grounded in the muted colors of the carpet, says interior designer Beth McGhee. The room, which has cantera flooring and a tall cantera fireplace, is bathed in light from clerestory windows and French doors; these open to a covered patio overlooking the pool. A pair of deer sculptures atop matching cabinets adds a sense of movement.

**Above:** Floating over the kitchen's granite-topped island, and holding vintage copper pots, an iron and wood pot rack is suspended from rafters set beneath a skylight. Backsplash tiles are Italian clay.

**Left:** The master bedroom, a study in serenity, is furnished with custom-crafted mesquite pieces. A sitting area and his-



**This photo:** Dappled sunlight filters through the leaves of Hong Kong Orchid trees onto the alfresco dining patio, where a tile-faced wall fountain is a focal point. The cast-aluminum table and chairs are weather-resistant. The tabletop is stone. Patio flooring is a blend of cantera tiles.

**Top:** A gallery hallway's multiple sets of French doors open to the dining patio.

**Bottom:** The light-filled dining room offers access to a front courtyard.





Tipu and ironwood trees shade this grassy area and the columned portal of the U-shaped home. The patio (foreground) and its outdoor kitchen benefit from a broad ramada set upon castero columns. Star pattern winds around a center column and across the ramada roof.  
Sue Suarez