



# STORIED AFFAIR

A PROJECT ALMOST 40 YEARS IN THE MAKING BECOMES A HIGHLY CULTIVATED HOMESTEAD IN CAREFREE DESIGNED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO ENJOY.

WRITTEN BY LISA SKOLNIK PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAURA MOSS

INTERIOR DESIGN Jana Parker Lee, ASID, Wiseman & Gale Interiors  
ARCHITECTURE Bing Hu and Steve Hall, H&S International | HOME BUILDER Keith Bolock and Chris Johnson, Shiloh  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE Donna Winters, Enchanted Garden Landscape, Inc.  
BEDROOMS 2 | BATHROOMS 4 | SQUARE FEET 5,434



Plaster walls tinted a dusty blue fashion a serene backdrop for the dining room's rustic firebrick ceiling and aged French oak flooring, both from Exquisite Surfaces. *Top right:* A rug from Mansour Modern in San Francisco anchors the great room's A. Rudin leather lounge chair from Dean-Warren and JJ Custom sofas from John Brooks. *Bottom right:* A mirror reflects an Iron International chandelier in the great room.



Most people have a tale to tell when they build their dream home. But the owners of a majestic villa nestled in the lower reaches of Carefree's Black Mountain can write a novel about their saga, which spans almost 40 years and began with love at first sight. "I fell for Carefree when I moved to Scottsdale in 1974; the land was absolutely breathtaking," says the wife. "There was this little two-lane road going through the washes, and all you could see were boulders and desert for miles around." By 1978, she had saved enough to buy a 1.6-acre lot in the budding town. "I just knew that I wanted to live there someday," she adds.

During the next three decades, the homeowner married, had children and settled 20 miles away. "But I'd come up here all the time, watch the city grow, and think about what I would want to build," she says. Later trips to Italy with her husband gave the couple clarity. "We'd see all these rustic, centuries-old homes, where everything from the architecture to the furnishings were time-honored, artisanal and enchanting," says the husband, "and we wanted something similar."



The kitchen hood, made of reclaimed steel sheets that builder Keith Bolock found at a scrapyard, is a work of art against Tabarka Studio's handmade tiles from Craftsman Court Ceramics. Open shelving crafted from reclaimed barnwood keeps the owners organized.



The home's rich mix of materials is most apparent in the kitchen. Paul Ferrante's iron hanging pendants from John Brooks are placed over the island, while custom barstools clad in a textured Jim Thompson linen from Dean-Warren pull up to the wenge counter extension that also functions as a dining table.

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It was architect Bing Hu who gave them the knowledge to execute their vision. "He told us that homes are usually owned by the same family for generations in the European countryside. They start out small, and each generation adds on using different craftsmen and materials," says the husband. "That's what we wanted," agrees the wife, "a house that looks like it's been around for generations with rooms that seem to be added on using different building techniques instead of meticulously planned."

Achieving that goal took close collaboration among Hu and the rest of the team, which includes project manager Steve Hall, interior designer Jana Parker Lee, builders Keith Bolock and Chris Johnson, and landscape designer Donna Winters. "It sounds so simple to execute, but it took a lot of time to design a plan that had the right random demeanor yet incorporated modern conveniences," says Lee. For starters, the entire team spent hours at the lot to develop a design that maximized its climbing topography and sight lines.



Light gray frescoes walls forge a restful demeanor in the master bedroom, furthered by custom drapes and bedding made of three Les Indiennes fabric patterns. A handsome Ironware International bed with an upholstered headboard and the clients' own armchairs, re-covered in striped linen, continue the room's comforting tone.



Sheer Calvin Fabrics draperies flank the master bathroom's sleek Victoria + Albert tub from Clyde Hardware. French limestone floors and handmade tile walls join with a distressed side table and antique iron candle pillars to add warmth to the space.

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For the resulting layout, "every space slightly steps up the rise and has been precisely sited to optimize the views," says Hall. "We were painstaking about the size and placement of every room and window."

With another trip to Italy, Lee and the homeowners took stock of the architecture and let the Provincial ambience sink in, but while there, the couple realized that the heavily carved furnishings most often seen were way too ornate for their taste. "They decided that they wanted something simpler that captured the same aesthetic," Lee says. So, the designer sourced fixtures and furnishings that honored the couple's wishes for comfort and warmth with a timeless yet clean-lined appearance. "Pieces are mostly new with a smattering of antiques, but with a variety of fabrics that capture the right mood," she says.

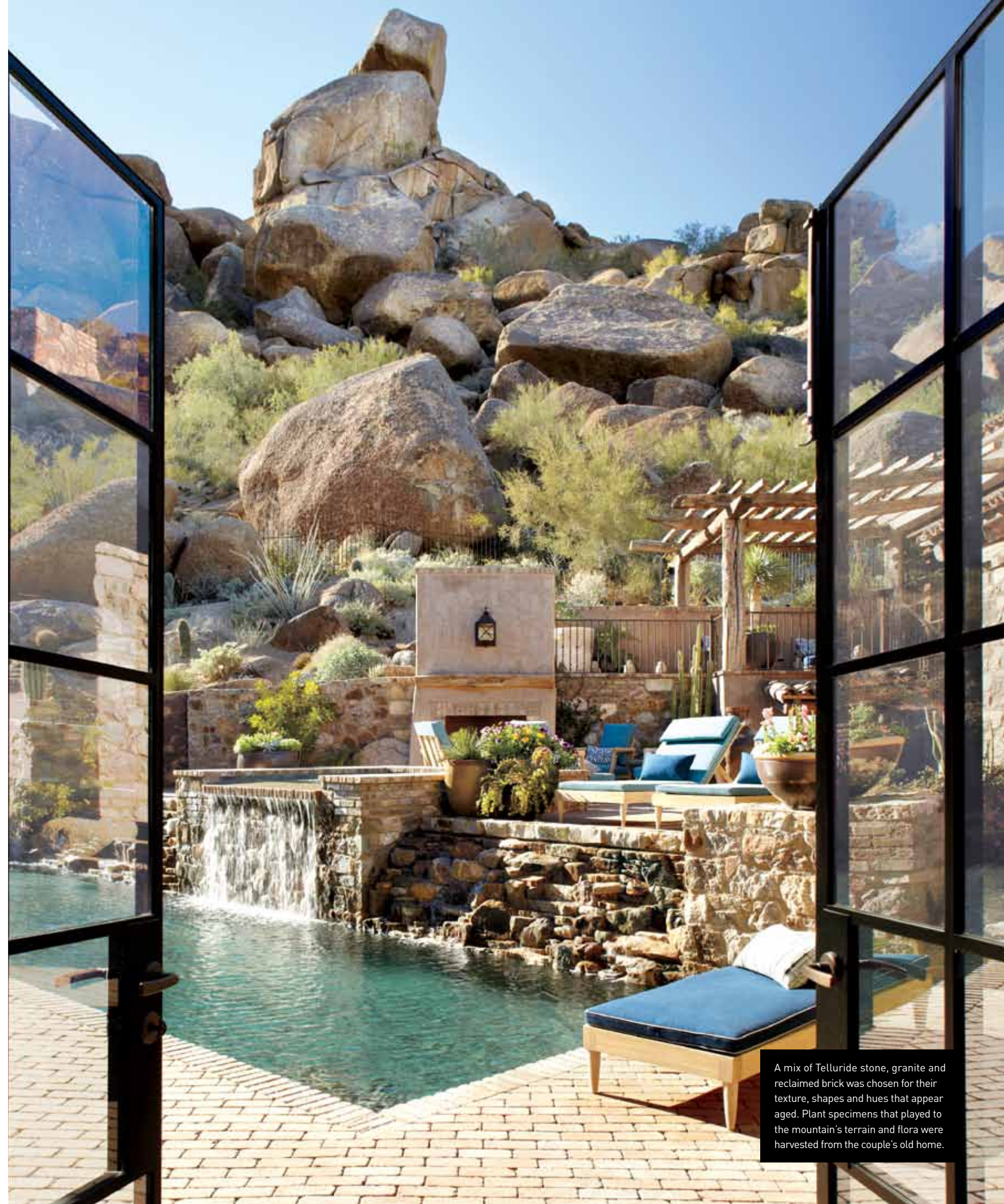


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Authentic materials—from perfectly weathered American barnwood and massive burnished European timber beams, to reclaimed French firebrick and limestone, wide-plank oak floorboards milled in Belgium, richly oxidized scrap steel and more—artfully craft the “aged” abode the couple desired. Bolock is especially proud of the layers-thick plastered concrete walls with bullnose corners and exterior masonry that melds different timeworn stones and bricks with hand-tinted grouts in varied hues. “We told the masons that we wanted everything to blend into the mountainside and encouraged them to get creative,” he says. A mix of plantings by Winters, including native saguaros, cacti and yuccas, deepens this connection and adds to the topography. “We had to reset entire boulders when necessary,” she says.

In the end, the home’s delightful mix of materials and furnishings shapes the acquired look the owners desired while keeping with their modern lifestyle. “The spaces just naturally flow into each other,” Lee says, denoting the epic tale that they hope will continue for generations to come. **L**

The patio was sited to maximize views and tiered to accommodate the pool by Mossman Brothers Pools. Though the fireplace looks rustic, everything is state-of-the-art. Sutherland furniture with Perennials-covered cushions is sturdy, attractive and comfortable.



A mix of Telluride stone, granite and reclaimed brick was chosen for their texture, shapes and hues that appear aged. Plant specimens that played to the mountain’s terrain and flora were harvested from the couple’s old home.