

# DECOR

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**Meredith**Specials

# Horizon Heaven

Mexican folk art, Venetian plaster walls, and Italian, French, and Spanish Colonial furnishings happily harmonize in the adobe confines of this Arizona retreat.



# Made the ancient way, with mud

bricks covered by a plaster skin, John and Joan D'Addario's second home in Arizona's Sonoran Desert is a true adobe. Its two floors are separated by ceilings of honed branches, called *latillas*. The branches span the space between *vigas* (log beams) and extend through the exterior wall to act as awnings, shielding windows from the fierce desert sun. Inside, built into the 20-inch-thick walls, are lots of nooks and crannies, traditionally used to display santos, the carved or painted images of saints. "Everything about the house is authentic," interior designer Patty Burdick says. Even the painstaking building process, which took a year and half.

When John retired from his day-to-day operations of J. D'Addario & Co., a third-generation family business that has been making strings for musical instruments since 1918, he and Joan began looking for property. With its dry breezes and a skyline that appears to hug the horizon, Arizona provided the couple with a high contrast to the gently rolling hills, leafy greens, and salty air of their home on Long Island's North Shore.

"Out here, it's a totally different climate and landscape, and

that was intriguing," John says. A thriving golf community also attracted the couple, who are ardent golfers. They found a site with access to six 18-hole golf courses just beyond their backyard.

To build their house, they hired Bill Tull, known for the authentic adobe residences he's created throughout the Southwest. Although Tull passed away when the D'Addario house was half completed, his original plans addressed the couple's request for a home that was easily accessible to the outdoors by creating a pool *portale*—in essence, an outdoor living room—that's completely open to the elements on one side. This 23×23-foot room, with its views of saguaro cacti, the manicured green lawns of the golf course, and the hills beyond, acts as a segue between the indoor living room and the outdoor pool and patio.

Inspired by the vista, Burdick chose a green-based palette softened with some "old red" to dress the *portale*. The fabrics and materials for the furnishings, most of which Burdick designed for the space, tolerate the elements; even the traditional coffee table is durable mesquite.

The interior living room mimics the spacious feel of its outdoor counterpart and was designed with music concerts in mind. To create the cozy feeling of a salon, bookcases surrounding the room are sunk into the thick adobe walls and the palette is a soft terra-cotta pink. Furniture is centered around a modern fireplace at the room's core, while a beautiful old Steinway anchors a corner. Matching chairs have low backs and no arms, so they can accommodate musicians and easily be moved around.

The D'Addarios have discovered that life takes on a more meditative quality in the desert. "It's so much more relaxing here," John says. "You do reflect a bit more. A lot of it has to do with the physical surroundings." He has come to especially appreciate the beauty of the desert's nighttime sky. Without light pollution, "You have a wonderful view of the stars," he points out. "It seems as if you're looking at the entire universe."





This Photo: Open to the outdoors on one side, this room, called a *portale*, is a bridge between the living room and the pool and patio. The ceiling beams and the open wall's dramatic corbels were hand-carved. Opposite: The D'Addarios' adobe home blends into the landscape.

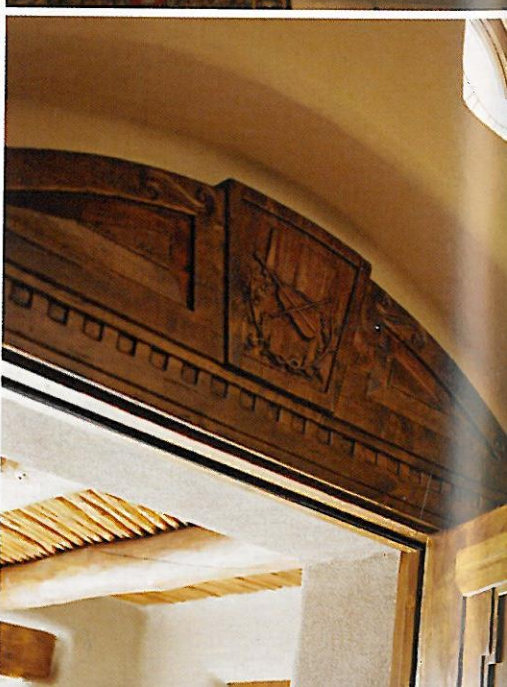
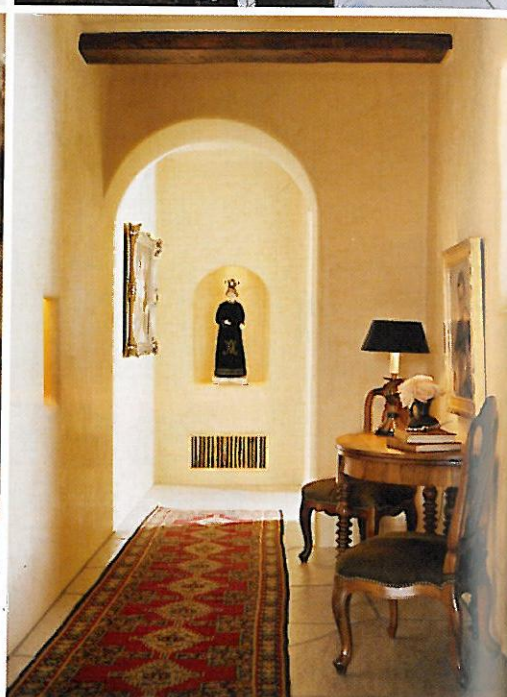
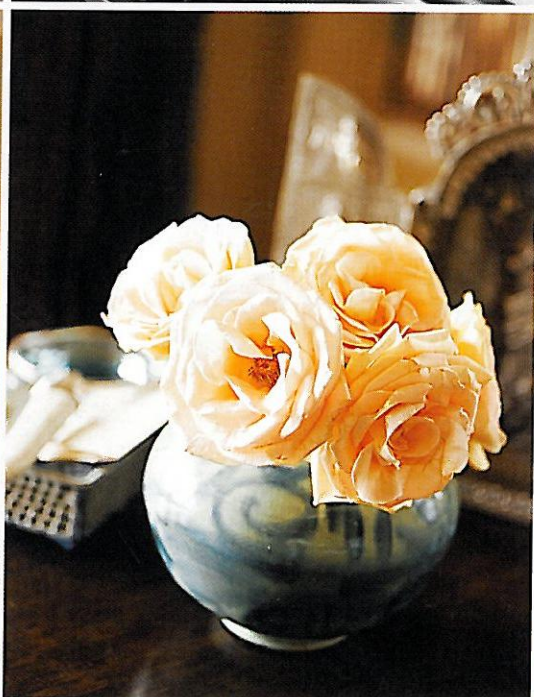
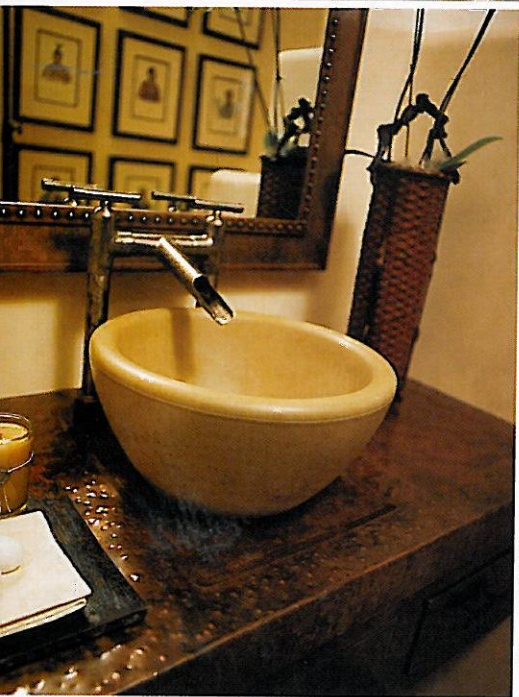
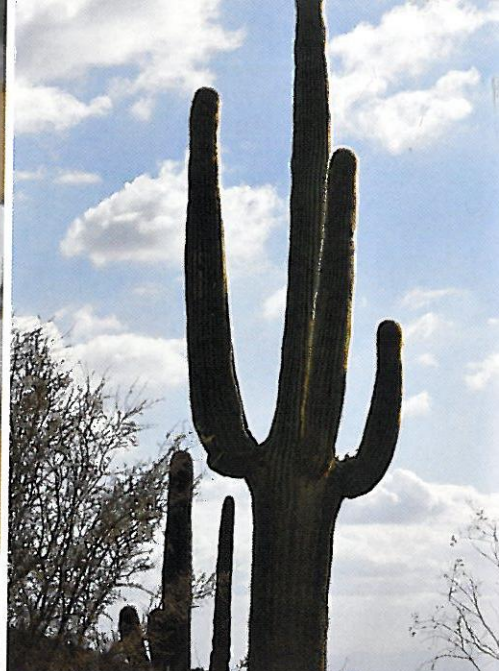


The D'Addarios wanted a casual second home, a place suitable for hosting dinner parties and informal music soirees.



**Opposite:** Hand-hewn beams frame the living room, and petrified moose antlers from Scotland hang above the fireplace. The spacious quarters were designed to accommodate informal celebrity concerts that benefit John's company's nonprofit educational foundation. **Left:** A Mexican statue of San Antonio and a sterling candelabra from Bolivia sit atop a buffet in the dining room. **Below:** A dramatic domed ceiling highlights a reproduction of an antique Italian table and a candlelit chandelier. The European pieces are in tune with the D'Addarios' wish for an adobe home with Mediterranean flair.







**Opposite:** Rich details—such as *latillas* shading a window, antique-looking green and sand kitchen backsplash tiles, a nook holding a 17th-century Spanish statue, a wood relief above the entry door, a violin-motif sconce, and a copper-faced bathroom countertop and cast-stone sink—abound in the D'Addarios' home. **Above:** The headboard in this guest room is covered in a richly patterned velvet. Hand-forged antique crosses adorn the wall.