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June/July 2004

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A large saguaro cactus stands prominently in the center of the frame, its dark silhouette contrasting sharply with the bright blue sky filled with fluffy white clouds. The cactus has two main arms reaching upwards, with several smaller arms branching off. In the lower-left corner, the silhouettes of other cacti and some dry, leafless branches are visible. On the far right edge, a vertical strip shows a portion of a modern interior, including a red leather chair with a green cushion and a colorful striped sofa.

arizona oasis

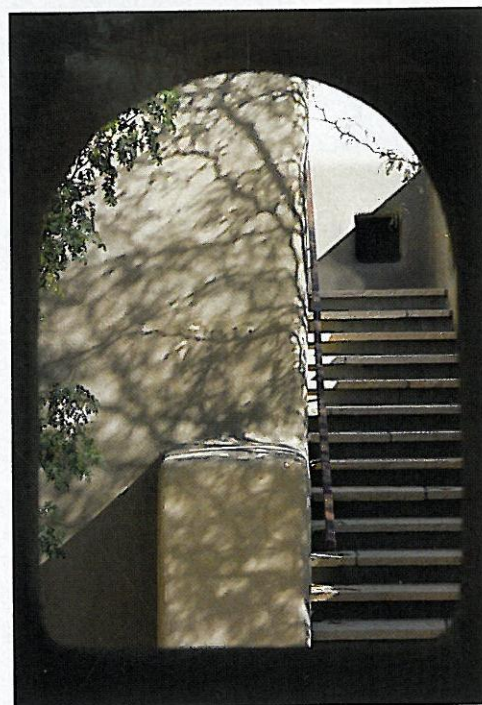
WHEN ADOBE MEETS MEDITERRANEAN, THE RESULT IS AN EASY, ELEGANT

BY JOANNE FURIO
PHOTOGRAPHY BY COLLEEN DUFFLEY
PRODUCED BY BARBARA MUNDALL



Open to the outdoors on one side, this room, called a *portale*, is a bridge between the living room and the pool and patio. Ceiling beams and the open wall's dramatic corbels were hand-carved. **Opposite:** The backyard's saguaro cacti are part of the Sonoran scenery.

HOME FOR A NEW YORK COUPLE.



LONG ISLAND HAS LITTLE IN COMMON WITH ARIZONA'S HIGH DESERT.



One has gently rolling hills and leafy trees; the other can be so flat, the sky seems to hug the horizon. Even the air is different. Back East, it carries a tang of salt and water; in the desert, dry breezes roll tumbleweeds across the landscape.

Yet it is that contrast that made John and Joan D'Addario, who live on Long Island's North Shore seven months of the year, decide to build a second home in Arizona's Sonoran Desert. "Out here, it's a totally different climate and landscape, and that was intriguing," says John.

On Long Island, the couple's brick, center-hall Colonial Revival is "very traditional and formal" and decorated with many European antiques, explains John. In Arizona, the couple wanted their second home to be more casual, a place where they could easily move from indoors to outdoors and host dinner parties and informal musical soirees.

John is an owner and former president of J. D'Addario & Co., a third-generation family business that has been making strings for musical instruments since 1918. When John took himself out of the day-to-day running of the firm several years ago, he and his wife began looking for property. They checked out Arizona, where they often visited over the years. "We found this place and just fell in love with it," he says.

The site they discovered was a golf community that gives the D'Addarios, both ardent golfers, access to six 18-hole golf courses just beyond their backyard. And to design their house, they chose Bill Tull, known for the authentic adobe residences he created all over the Southwest. The D'Addario home turned out to be Tull's last work; he died when the house was half completed, in September 2000.

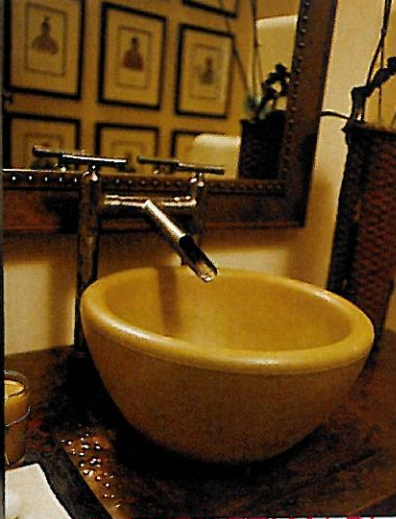
Instead of selecting a Tull design with American Indian motifs, the D'Addarios opted for another hybrid style that was more familiar to them—one with a Mediterranean flair.

Hand-hewn beams frame the living room, designed with informal music recitals in mind. Above the fireplace are petrified moose antlers from Scotland. **Opposite, clockwise from top left:** John and Joan D'Addario at poolside. ■ A view of stairs to a separate guest suite. ■ A dramatic domed ceiling highlights a reproduction of an antique Italian table and a candlelit chandelier.





Far left: In the dining room, a Mexican statue of San Antonio and a sterling candelabra from Bolivia sit on the buffet. Near left: A powder room cabinet was reproduced from an Italian original. Right: The kitchen's antique-looking green and sand tiles were chosen because they included a wonderful plaque with a carved griffin.

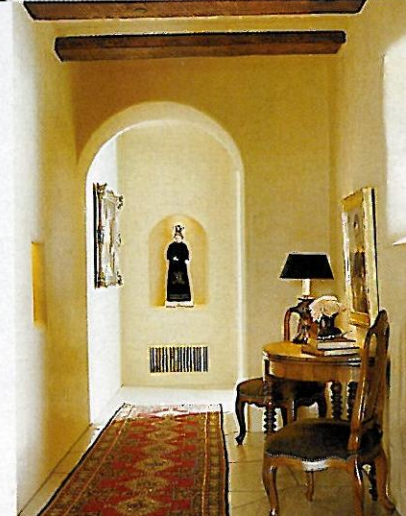


From left: A sconce with a violin, one of several motifs in the home that reflect the family business—making strings for musical instruments. ■ A collection of old Mexican chests and boxes. ■ A cast concrete vessel on a copper-faced countertop in another, more casual powder room.

THIS IS A HOUSE WHERE MEXICAN FOLK ART, VENETIAN PLASTER WALLS, AND



Above, from left: Like a family crest, a wood relief of violin and sheet music conveys the family's musical legacy. ■ *Latillas* shade a window. ■ Roses in a Chinese bowl. Right: A nook holds a 17th-century Spanish statue. ■ An earthenware bowl in the entry. ■ A Venetian glass lamp illuminates the master bedroom's paisley velvet-upholstered headboard.





ITALIAN, FRENCH, AND SPANISH COLONIAL FURNISHINGS HAPPILY HARMONIZE.



Such a backdrop allowed Mexican folk art, Venetian plaster walls, and Italian, French, and Spanish Colonial furnishings to happily harmonize.

The 6,000-square-foot home is a true adobe, made the ancient way, with mud bricks covered by a plaster skin. The two floors are separated by ceilings of honed branches, called *latillas*, that 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—a tradition the D'Addarios have upheld.

"Everything about this house is authentic"—even the painstaking building process, says interior designer Patty Burdick. "It took a year and a half to build."

Addressing the couple's request that the home be easily accessible to the outdoors, Tull created a dramatic "pool *portale*"—in essence, an outdoor living room—that's completely open to the elements on one side. This almost 23x23-foot room,

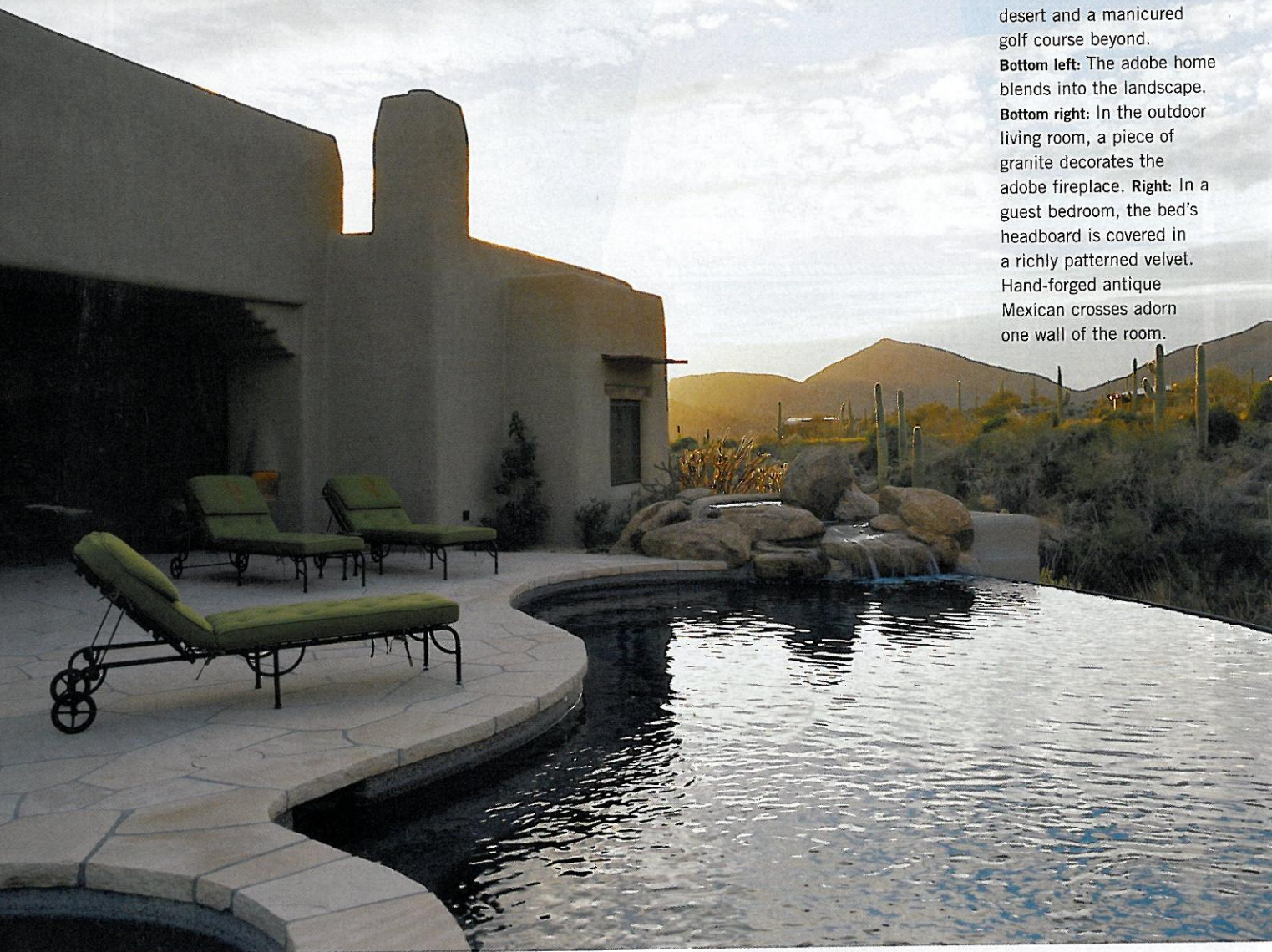
Above: In the kitchen, the griffin motif, picked up from the inset tile on the backsplash, was enlarged and painted on the hood over the cooktop by decorative painter Karen Bennett. She gave her mythical creature a golf club to hold, reflecting the golfing passion of the homeowners. The custom cabinets, though distressed, have a smooth finish and green granite countertops. Mexican pots flank the stove.

Left: The island has been given a weathered red paint treatment.

A vanishing-edge pool overlooks the untamed desert and a manicured golf course beyond.

Bottom left: The adobe home blends into the landscape.

Bottom right: In the outdoor living room, a piece of granite decorates the adobe fireplace. **Right:** In a guest bedroom, the bed's headboard is covered in a richly patterned velvet. Hand-forged antique Mexican crosses adorn one wall of the 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.

Framing the view is a dramatic wall with hand-carved corbels that contribute to a rustic, Mexican-country feel. The *portale's* adobe fireplace can take the edge off the occasional chill in the air. Inspired by the vista, Burdick chose a green-based palette softened with some "old red." The fabrics and materials she selected for the *portale* furnishings, most of which she designed especially for the space, can tolerate the elements; even the traditional coffee table is in a durable outdoor wood, mesquite.

The living room was designed with music in mind, especially informal celebrity concerts that will benefit John's company's nonprofit educational foundation.

To create the cozy feeling of a salon, bookcases that surround the room were sunk into the thick adobe walls. In this room, the palette softens to a terra-cotta pink. "The floor plan makes it easy to move lots of chairs around," says Burdick. 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 be moved effortlessly. "You could easily have 20 people in that room," says Burdick.

Since the D'Addarios like to entertain—Joan is a good cook who specializes in Italian and barbecue—and their children and grandchildren are frequent visitors, the house was designed with two guest suites: one on the first floor, and the other—about 1,000 square feet—encompassing the entire second floor. It has its own entrance, an outdoor adobe stairway that adds additional architectural interest.

The D'Addarios have discovered that life takes on a more meditative quality in the desert. "It's so much more relaxing here," John observes. "You do reflect a little 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 nocturnal sky, which he now sees in all its glory. Without the usual light pollution, "You have a wonderful view of the stars," he points out. "It seems as if you're looking at the entire universe." ■

Interior designer: Patty Burdick

For more information, see sources on page 172.