

BEST NEW REMODEL IDEAS

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# RANCH REDEFINED

AN INTERIOR DESIGNER REVAMPS HER OWN HOME ONE STEP AT A TIME



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Homeowner and interior designer Jana Parker Lee says that every five or six years she does something new to update her Phoenix home. Changes to her living room (pictured) include the addition of pine paneling and a fire-place surround, and painting the plank ceiling white and the walls a soft shade of gold. Furnishings, too, have changed over the years. "I've gone from a more feminine look to one that is handsome and understated," she relates. The French doors to the left lead to a library that used to be a bedroom; those on the right open to an outdoor room.





**T**wenty-three years ago, interior designer Jana Parker Lee was a single mother looking for a place to raise her four young children. What she found was a 1960s-era Ranch-style home with good bones in the charming east-Phoenix neighborhood of Arcadia. But the house was in need of updating, and the master bedroom was too small.

"I knew I could do something great with this place," recalls Parker Lee, now a partner at Wiseman & Gale Interiors, LLC, and an Allied Member of ASID. "But I didn't want to change the footprint of the house. My overall intention was to preserve and restore the original design and stay true to the Arcadia spirit and personality."

During the past two decades, the residence has gone through a metamorphosis of sorts, with renovations happening in stages. Some were the result of modernizing the home; others were in response to the shifting dynamics of the household, including children who left the nest, and a remarriage for Parker Lee, who now shares the home with husband John.

As with most remodels of older residences, the "guts" of the house required an overhaul. "The electrical and plumbing needed to be brought up to date, and the doors and windows were replaced with more thermo-friendly versions that replicate the look of the original ones," says the designer.

One of the biggest changes was the addition of a master suite on the north side of the house, facing the backyard. "There was plenty of room outside, and the addition created an enclosure that formed a cozy courtyard," she explains. The serene bedroom features a slanted ceiling, walls painted a soft sage green, a black four-poster bed, and a reading nook with a fireplace. "It's a nice, quiet place to escape," she reflects.

The 4,000-square-foot home offers a mix of Traditional and

Contemporary elements, and its homey feel is akin to other residences in the area. The spacious master bath, however, offers an unexpected surprise—pure luxury. Here, Carrara marble covers the floors and countertops; linen drapes hang behind an oversized corner tub; the ceiling is embellished with gold-leaf banding, faux-finished in silver. And smack-dab in the middle is a velvet-covered chaise. "I like to make master baths spa-like," Parker Lee admits.

Other modifications include turning a secondary bedroom into two rooms—a laundry and a study—removing a wall in the kitchen to open it up to the family room, gutting and remodeling the original bathrooms, and redoing the back landscape. "The yard has a natural slope, so we took advantage of it by creating raised sitting areas that flank the pool. We've also added more arid-adapted plants, which I have come to love," she notes.

"Our home may not be typical Southwest," Parker Lee remarks. "But it suits the neighborhood, and it's very livable, informal and inviting." □

**Above:** The backyard used to be a "massive jungle of oleander bushes," recalls Jana Parker Lee. Over the years a pool, ramada and brick patio were added. **Opposite:** The latest renovation was the kitchen. Changes include new white Poggenpohl cabinets and a custom stainless steel hood, as well as the elimination of several upper cabinets. Although small, the room felt even tinier when Parker Lee first moved in. The removal of a wall that divided the kitchen and adjacent family room—now separated by a dining peninsula—opened up the space. Flooring here and throughout the house is natural white oak.









**Above:** A master suite was added in the late '80s. Originally painted a light blue and decorated with Traditional furnishings (left), the serene space now reflects the designer's desire for a simpler, more sophisticated ambience. Crisp white linens on a black four-poster bed, walls painted a custom shade of green, a clover-leaf-shaped ottoman, and comfy chairs tie the room together. **Opposite:** In the master bath, walls are painted and textured to mimic raw silk fabric. On the ceiling, subtle gold and silver paint forms a decorative band. The designer updated the once white-washed vanity by repainting it, raising the height, topping it with marble, and adding crystal knobs. The linen velvet chaise is the room's centerpiece. A combination of natural reed shades and double-layer linen sheers keeps the mood light.









**Clockwise from bottom left:** Jana Parker Lee says she likes to mix Contemporary and Traditional styles. In the remodeled guest bath, she went sleek. Here, a concrete vanity with stainless steel base backs up to a wall of glass tiles. Flooring is limestone. ■ Originally the master bedroom, this space was first turned into a girls' room with twin beds. Today, it serves as a guest room. The addition of baseboards, crown molding, pretty fabrics and a coat of paint gives it a fresh look. ■ A full bath at the end of the main hallway now functions as the powder room. The designer decked it out with white ceramic wall tile that replicates beadboard, a custom furniture piece painted black and turned into a vanity, and a terrazzo tile floor "rug." **Opposite:** Once a plain-white interior bedroom, this space has been revamped into a cozy library. "It separates the master suite from the rest of the house and acts as an entry to our bedroom," notes Parker Lee. Built-in alder bookshelves, and an upholstered ceiling detailed with nailheads lend a feeling of warmth.

See Sources.



