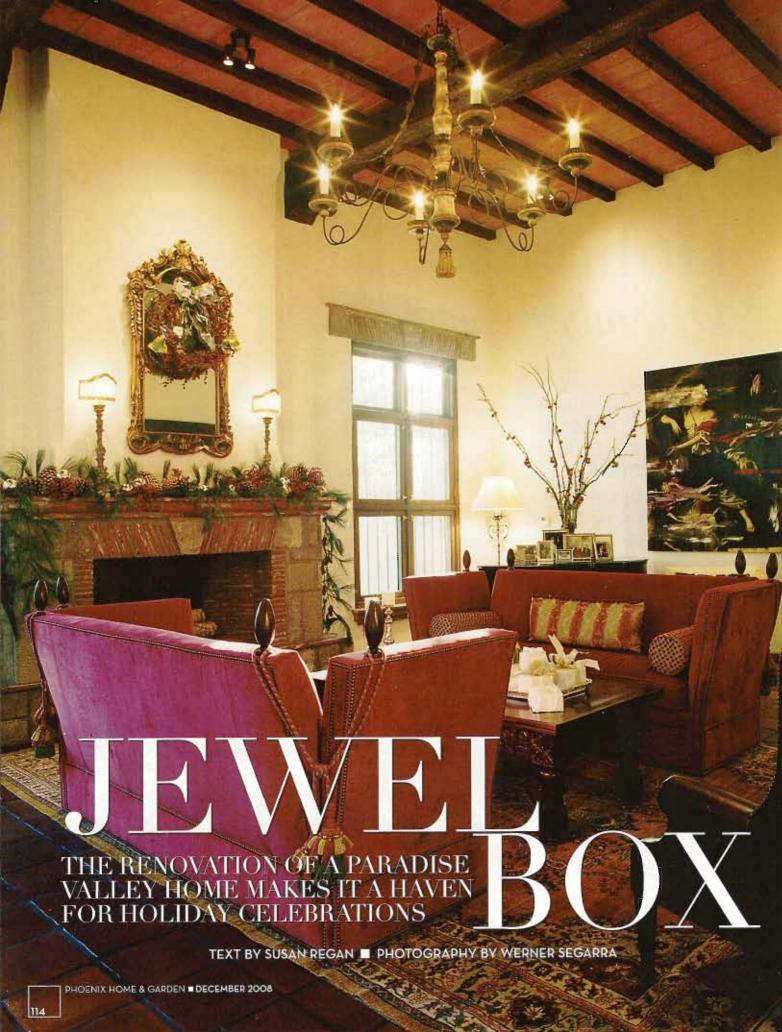


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eople living in other parts of the country may wonder what the holidays are like in the desert Southwest, where snowfall is a rarity and pleasant daytime temperatures invite outdoor celebrations. For Kim and David Lindsey and their two young daughters, their newly remodeled Spanish Colonial courtyard home in Paradise Valley, Arizona, is an integral part of the festivities.

"I absolutely love Christmas at this house," exclaims Kim. The season gets into full swing when the family trims a silver tip Christmas tree while listening to holiday carols and eating Mexican food. Kim says she likes the fir for its open branches, which can accommodate the many ornaments the family has collected over the years.

Throughout the home, greenery adorns fireplace mantels, wreaths dress doorways, and white lights illuminate the columned entrance and trees in the courtyard. The red-and-green color palette that is found in many of the rooms adds another facet to the joyful mood. "The house lends itself to Christmas," observes interior designer Jennifer Campos, Allied Member ASID. She says, however, that it didn't always have such a bright, cheery atmosphere.

Campos explains that when the Lindseys purchased the late-1970s property three years ago it was in need of a face-lift that would update its look while honoring the spirit of its design. Wood ceiling beams were dried out; heavy stonework, columns and corbels dominated several of the rooms; and a lack of lighting made areas dark. On the plus side, the designer points out the many original details that make this residence, which she calls a jewel box, such a treasure. For example, most windows are fitted with rustic-looking brick-lined window seats; the home's U-shaped design centers around a lushly planted courtyard with a fountain; and the ceiling in most of the public spaces is Saltillo tile.

To emphasize the unique architectural elements, ceiling beams were restored and refinished with a black stain. The Saltillo flooring also was stained to visually distinguish it from the ceiling, and much of the heavy stonework was removed.

Now, antique furnishings enhance the European ambience the couple sought. For example, an ensemble of old paintings from Europe and an antique Spanish bench accent the dining room, which was painted a rich orangered hue, while an heirloom wood coffee table was placed in the living room.

Kim says she and David are pleased with the inviting, cozy feel of the house and are eager to begin new holiday traditions with their daughters. "I can really see our kids growing up here and looking back and saying, 'I love the house where I grew up."







