

Décor

THE MOST
GORGEOUS
ROOMS
EVER

Fall/Winter 2009
Display until November 24

\$12.99 U.S.



MeredithSpecials®

Rediscover Elegance
Top Designers Share Their Secrets

Carefree Arizona

Pueblo-style details partnered
with authentic Southwest artifacts
provide a rich backdrop for
enjoying the good life out West.

The Sonoran desert landscape unfurls behind Mary Ellen and Gates Hawn's home just outside Phoenix. The pool area is anchored by a kiva fireplace and built-in benches, which are perfect for savoring cool nights in the high desert.





This photo: Spanish Colonial antiques and iron accents create a comfortable collected-over-time feel in the great-room. **Opposite:** French doors along the back of the house provide a smooth transition to the outdoor entertaining areas.

It's not every day that a real estate

agent calls to tell you your dream home has been found—especially when you didn't even know you had an agent or that you were in the market for a home. But in 2004, while kicking back in his 100-year-old English Tudor home in New Jersey, Gates Hawn picked up the phone and discovered his life was about to change.

In Phoenix for a girls' golfing trip, Gates' wife, Mary Ellen, found herself on open-house tours dreaming of teeing up a whole new lifestyle with her newly retired husband. "I'm full of surprises," Mary Ellen says, "but this one was a biggie. We really weren't considering a second home anywhere. But things happen."

Mary Ellen found herself captivated by the Sonoran desert landscape and the sunny, casual lifestyle of the West. Then she discovered a Pueblo-style adobe home in a picturesque community dotted with six Arnold Palmer-designed golf courses, and it was game on. "I took one look at this home," she says, "and fell in love with its traditional Southwestern design and the setting. And it's in Carefree, Arizona. Isn't that a great name?"

It's almost as great as the great-room, where 20-foot-high ceilings constructed with *latillas*, the Southwest's traditional peeled-pine limbs, are laid in a herringbone pattern and supported by log beams called *vigas*. French doors lead out to a covered porch and a courtyard with a naturalized pool in its center and a kiva fireplace off to one side. Two guest rooms with separate entrances and a casita for visitors ensure the home is always ready to entertain.

Inside and out, the home feels gracious and authentic, thanks to designer Patty Burdick, who worked with Mary Ellen to create comfortable Southwest-flavored interiors while avoiding anything resembling kitsch. "The Hawns leaped into the lifestyle and aesthetic completely," Burdick says.

An existing backdrop of Venetian-plaster walls tinted a soft rose steered Burdick to a palette of rich reds. She began with a

red-and-brown linen on the wing chair in the great-room and added brown leather upholstery plus tartan plaids gusty enough to balance the lofty ceilings. Pops of sage green, such as the master bedroom's linens and outdoor furniture fabrics, complete the look and mimic the desert landscape beyond the windows. "By picking colors for the inside from what you see on the outside, you feel like you're always outdoors," Gates says.

Ornately carved wooden antiques with Spanish Colonial roots anchor rooms in the West's past. That feeling is enhanced by layers of original Southwestern artifacts, including an array of bold pottery collected from local artists. "We wanted a home completely different from our home back East," Mary Ellen says. Gates is the first to say the house is a success—on all fronts. "We have six months in the New Jersey green zone and six months in the Arizona brown zone, each with its own look and lifestyle," he says. "It's a nice balance."



Fuss-free interiors make it easy to kick back and relax.



Above: A zebra-print bench and tartan throw pillows add powerful punches of personality to the neutral living room. A braided sisal rug repeats the texture found in the pine-log ceiling.

Opposite: Nailhead-trimmed chairs and an ornate table balance the weight of the dining room's beamed ceiling and thick plaster walls.







Opposite, clockwise from top left: A kiva fireplace warms the master bedroom. A dramatic oversized front door, Guatemalan masks, and a kilim rug form a dramatic entrance to the Hawns' home. A limestone table on the covered porch is always ready to host a party. Museum-quality Native American pottery dresses up side tables and shelves in the living room. **Above:** An iron four-poster balances the lofty ceilings in the master bedroom.