

POINT OF VIEW

THE VIBRANT PALETTE OF CAMELBACK MOUNTAIN SETS AN INVITING YET PLAYFUL TONE FOR AN OPEN-PLAN HOUSE IN PARADISE VALLEY.

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INTERIOR DESIGN Jill Anderson, Wiseman & Gale Interiors
HOME BUILDER Richard Bistany, Bistany PLC
BEDROOMS 4 | BATHROOMS 7 | SQUARE FEET 5,556



In lieu of a rug, the foyer sports a floor painted by artist J. Michael McDonald with an interpretation of a Navajo chief's blanket. Conceived by designer Jill Anderson, the painting fashions a whimsical yet practical element.



With homes already in Montana and North Dakota, a Midwesterner and her husband decided also to put some roots down in Arizona, where they often visited, “but we weren’t finding the right fit,” she says. That is until they came across a newly listed house in Paradise Valley. “We walked through the doors, turned the corner, saw Camelback Mountain and that was it,” she says. “My husband was sold. We just love those mountain views.”

The house checked other boxes on the couple’s wish list, as well, boasting a fabulous kitchen, large great room and generous outdoor spaces that blend with the indoor living areas, important for the wife, an avid entertainer who is also a classically trained French chef and restaurateur. The couple, however, desired a softer design with a vibe more in keeping with its desert surroundings. Enter designer Jill Anderson.

Architect and builder Richard Bistany made only minimal changes to the original structure of the house, blessed as it was with good bones and an elegant Santa Barbara-style design. Iron lights, terra-cotta urns and a door from Craftsmen in Wood add a rustic flair to the entrance, where native plantings offer a touch of color.



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“We sat down with Jill in the great room and kept looking out at the pool, the backyard, the bougainvillea, and then Camelback with the corals, browns and greens,” recalls the wife. “That dictated how we wanted to start. We took the beauty of the outside and warmed up the inside with a lot of the same tones, but with more playful pops of color.”

To help get things moving, Anderson introduced her clients to architect and builder Richard Bistany, who made subtle adjustments inside and out. “The house had wonderful bones,” Bistany notes. “It just needed some tailoring to meet the owners’ desires.” Chief among them was a reconceived master bathroom, where Bistany swapped out a spa tub for a more graceful, curved soaking model.

Anderson broke the generously proportioned great room into discrete seating areas. In one, a Kravet sofa covered in a Pierre Frey linen forms an intimate group with a pair of Wiseman & Gale-designed armchairs in a Carlton V stripe and an Old Hickory Furniture lounge chair in a Schumacher floral from Color Quest.



Featuring a Charles Pollock table surrounded by chairs in Pierre Frey’s Camargue jacquard from John Brooks, the breakfast area does double duty as a quiet space for cards. A light fixture by Allan Knight and Associates illuminates the space, where a painting by Nicholas Wilton graces the wall.



Simon Pearce glassware, Vietri dishes and antique Talavera pottery fill a hutch in the kitchen. An existing element complete with antique French doors, Anderson had it lit from within to better function for display.



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In a departure from a typical design project, however, Anderson and Bistany tackled the outside areas first, so the owners, who were bunking in one of the home's two guesthouses, could enjoy their beloved views immediately. Once the outdoor spaces were finished (featuring a mix of bright patterns and varied textures for the furnishings), Anderson turned to the inside. There, her biggest challenge was finessing the great room's layout. "We decided on an unconventional floor plan that included a dining table, a game table that is also used for informal dining, and a seating arrangement that has two groupings of furniture," she says.

As they strategized the furnishings, "We focused on taking the edge off what could be a very contemporary home," says Anderson, opting for fabrics in vivid florals and stripes, generously proportioned furniture and distressed finishes to temper the harder elements of the architecture, along with some antique textiles and rugs for a bit of character.

Anderson added a series of shelves in the kitchen to store more of her clients' collection of dishware, opting for mesquite because its distressed look imbues the house with a casual feel. Pearson barstools in a Designers Guild fabric from Dean-Warren balance the dark tones of the existing cabinetry.



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Other unexpected details also pop up around the house, adding yet another dimension. For example, with the sweep of the front door so low to the ground, a rug was a no-go. Instead, the wife suggested painting one on the floor. “I envisioned a Navajo chief’s blanket,” Anderson says, and so she enlisted a local artist to create it. Elsewhere, the designer upholstered niches and shelving, such as in the master bedroom and bath, and filled them with unique items, lending touches of pattern and color to spaces that might otherwise recede into the background.

When it came to selecting art for the house, “I didn’t want to fill every inch of wall space,” says Anderson, “so each piece had to be worthy in its own right.” Her well-curated choices include a stunning painting by

Gray Day, a Chuck Johnson mixed-media work from Costello-Childs Contemporary Fine Art, overlooks the master’s custom bed, which is clad in Anichini linen from Valerianne of Scottsdale. A small sitting area was a special request from the clients.



The newly reconfigured master bath gained an Edel Weiss soaking tub by Alcove; the faucets are Barbara Barry for Kallista, purchased at Ferguson. The tub is framed from above by a valance in Duralee fabric.



A Pavilion sofa and lounge chairs, purchased at Inside/Out Showrooms, are covered in a bright Opuzen solid and offer an ideal spot for relaxing on the loggia. The wife found the carved frog chair, a reflection of her whimsical spirit, at Tierra Del Lagarto.



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Nicholas Wilton that commands the great room, an abstract work by Chuck Johnson that splashes color to the master bedroom, and a series of sculptures by John Geldersma that line the wall of a hallway. “The wife is a gem—she has a very whimsical and playful side—and I wanted to reflect that in the artwork,” says Anderson.

In the end, the project fulfilled the clients’ primary design brief. “We wanted to surround ourselves with beauty,” the wife says. And Anderson gave them exactly that, fashioning a welcoming space that reflects the warm desert hues found right outside. Adds the designer, “I believe that you just can’t underestimate the value of placing sublime art and antique patina in a home.” **L**

Ample outdoor spaces yield many places to enjoy the views of Camelback Mountain. Given the close relationship between inside and out, the warm earthy palette extends into the grounds and exterior furnishings, even in the pool area, where Kingsley-Bate armchairs surround a fireplace.