

INTERIOR DESIGN / JANA PARKER LEE, WISEMAN AND GALE
ARCHITECTURE / MARK CANDELARIA AND MEREDITH THOMSON, CANDELARIA DESIGN
GENERAL BUILDER / DOMINICK ABATEMARCO, MRA CUSTOM HOMES
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE / JEFF BERGHOFF, BERGHOFF DESIGN GROUP





Paradise Found

IN THE FOOTHILLS OF CAMELBACK MOUNTAIN,
A COUPLE PUTS DOWN NEW ROOTS.

WRITTEN BY PATRICIA LEIGH BROWN / PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAURA MOSS



Attachments to places can run deep. And so it was for the owners of a Paradise Valley residence in the foothills of Camelback Mountain, a neighborhood in which the husband grew up and as a teenager would drive all-terrain vehicles through the desert mesquite and prickly pear. When he and his wife, also an Arizonan, wanted a new home in the area, they turned to interior designer Jana Parker Lee to interpret their fondness for the Valley of the Sun in a residence designed for extended family gatherings.

Now empty nesters, the couple had lived in a Paradise Valley residence before, but the house was ornate and European in feel and wasn't a perfect fit for the two. "It had lots of heavy stone and faux-rustic elements," says Parker

Lee. "So much of the Southwest look gets reproduced, and these clients like casual but not anything rustic. They wanted a little bit of refinement."

The couple's new house, whose interiors Parker Lee characterizes as "streamlined classical," features rich details brought to life by builder Dominick Abatemarco, such as weighty walnut doors with pure bronze hardware and Venetian plaster walls, polished and mottled to provide "a clean old-world finish," he says. The design—which originated with architects Mark Candelaria and Meredith Thomson yet evolved along the way—boasts clay roof tiles that are flat, in contrast to the region's prevailing Spanish-style barrel aesthetic. "They're not showy people," Abatemarco says of the clients. "Those kinds of sharp details were key."

For the Paradise Valley house of an empty nester couple, interior designer Jana Parker Lee created interiors she describes as "clean-lined traditional." In the living room, a painting by Judith Kruger from Bentley Gallery presides over a seating area with a pair of custom armchairs in Lee Jofa stripe and a coffee table by Harrison-Van Horn. The lamps are from Blackman Cruz in Los Angeles.

"I always throw in a few antiques to add character and contrast," Parker Lee notes. At ease with the antique limestone fireplace from Exquisite Surfaces in Los Angeles are contemporary A. Rudin chairs and a Bright coffee table from Town. The living room's dramatic architectural elements—18-foot-tall Venetian plaster walls and arched windows—were brought to life by builder Dominick Abatemarco.





Opposite: At the clients' behest, Parker Lee designed an oversize kitchen so that extended family could gather and join in with the cooking. She chose subtle gray shades by Farrow & Ball for the custom cabinetry from Finely Designed, while opting for Farrow & Ball Stone Blue for the large island. The counters and backsplash are from Galleria of Stone.

Below: The residence was situated to take advantage of Camelback Mountain views, and the rugged scenery softens while dining alfresco at sunset. To create an inviting outdoor dining area, Lee chose a Sutherland teak table and chairs, upholstered in Perennials fabric. "Our home was designed to enjoy the beautiful views from the inside and the outside," the wife says.



Opposite: "Comfortable upholstery is a must," says Parker Lee. In the library, she covered chairs from Aesthetic in Los Angeles with a supple leather by Howe and paired them with a custom tiger-wood desk. A gold-leaf Paul Ferrante chandelier from John Brooks Incorporated adds a dash of dazzle.

Below: For the entry hall, as throughout, the goal was streamlined classicism—"no curlicues," says the interior designer, who illuminated the space with a chandelier by The Urban Electric Co. Above a console by Peter Alexander Furniture, a photograph by Mark Klett from Lisa Sette Gallery celebrates the singular terrain.







To put the rooms together, Parker Lee and the wife visited showrooms in Los Angeles and Arizona, settling on traditional and modern pieces interspersed with antiques and custom-designed furniture and cabinetry. "My favorite thing is to create a mix that feels personal and collected," Parker Lee says. In the living room, contemporary leather lounge chairs commune with an antique limestone mantel and small lamps set on custom Wiseman and Gale étagères. In the formal dining room, custom-built oak cabinets root the room while serving as the perfect foil for a handblown chandelier with shell-shaped crystals by John Pomp. Shades of blue and gray are dominant, a palette chosen by the wife "who has always loved blue," Parker Lee

notes. Though Paradise Valley is an elite province, the couple prizes the area's "neighborliness." Their priority was providing an array of gathering and dining spaces for their extended family, including relatives nearby. "Our dining spaces allow everyone to have a seat at a table and sit comfortably, which was very important to us," says the wife.

Various shades of teal, cornflower and navy blue permeate the adjacent family room and custom-designed kitchen, including an enormous kitchen island. The kitchen is the family's center of gravity, with an office and sitting area to one side—the perfect space for mulling over recipes. Metal pendants and walnut shelves add an earthy feel. The space is deliberately oversized "so that everyone can congregate there and share in the cooking," says the wife.

For the outdoor living area, wide Dedar woven chairs from Inside/Out are outfitted with cushions covered in a blue Perennials fabric. "Colors and textures were purposely chosen so that the indoor spaces flowed seamlessly to the outdoor living areas," Parker Lee notes. The antique cactus is from Wiseman and Gale.

Chaise lounges by Pavilion are arranged next to the swimming pool, which is bordered on one side by lush plantings and views of Phoenix beyond. Landscape architect Jeff Berghoff, who designed the outdoor areas, essentially started from scratch to replace foliage disrupted by construction.





The light-filled master bathroom—which features a Thassos tile floor with a beehive pattern inset by Waterworks—a Celine tub from Devon Devon takes in ample natural light and treetop views. Creating contrast to the pristine tub are a ceramic vessel by Mark Hendrickson in Costello Childs Gallery and a side table from Formations.

When the brutal triple-digit summer heat is behind them, the couple throw open the retractable doors to the patio and the gardens beyond, which are the vision of landscape architect Jeff Berghoff. “During construction, the majority of the site was disturbed and had to be re-created,” he notes. “We blended in native trees and shrubs transitioning to a lush botanical look as you approach the home.” The negative-edge pool was situated to take in views of the city and mountains; in an

architectural sleight of hand, visitors arrive through the front gate, which has views of the back patio, and wend their way up a drive to the main entrance at the back.

At sunset, the mountain’s rust-red boulders become luminous, the foreboding aspects of the desert landscape giving way to something almost tender. In such moments, this thoughtfully designed residence brings to mind the spirit of a Navajo blessingway, enabling the couple and those close to them to “walk in beauty.” **L**



Soft, hand-printed linen window treatments by Galbraith & Paul offer a soothing backdrop to the master bedroom, where a custom bed by De La Madera, upholstered with Twill Textile fabrics from John Brooks Incorporated, adds to the serene feel. Atop the fireplace surround from Exquisite Surfaces in Los Angeles are a Han Dynasty Cocoon jar and a papier-mâché bust by artist Agnès Baillon, both from Wiseman and Gale.

