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## *tuscan tale*

AN EAST-COAST COUPLE CREATE AN OLD-WORLD OASIS  
AMID THE MAJESTIC BACKDROP OF THE SONORAN DESERT.

WRITTEN BY JENNIFER QUAIL PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL BARTER

With views of the city lights twinkling from one direction and golf courses, mountains and the natural desert lying in wait from others, an East Coast couple found their personal oasis in the picturesque Sonoran Desert. The Scottsdale location offered the perfect backdrop for a second home that was to reflect a love of both the desert and the old-world stylings of Tuscany—a home that will eventually serve as a permanent residence for the former attorneys, as well as a welcoming getaway for their now-teenage triplets, family and friends.

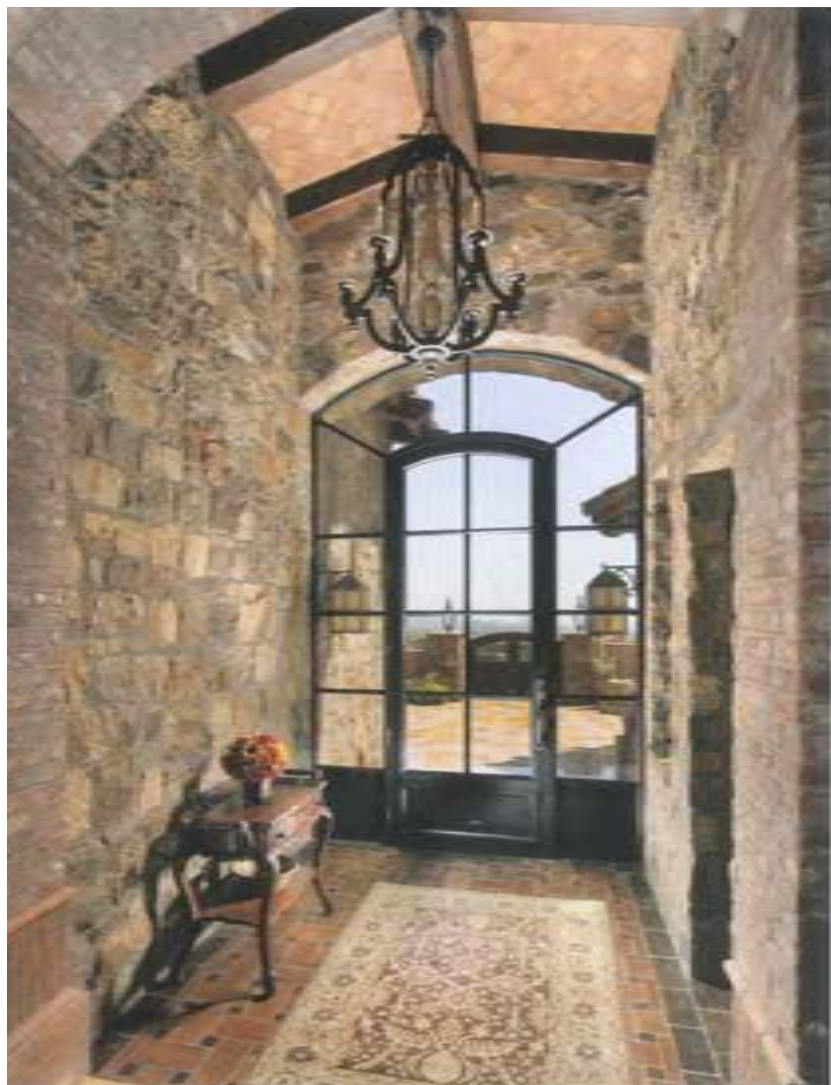
The project, however, was not without its challenges. “The site was basically just a knoll,” says architect Lee Hutchison, who worked on the project along with associate architect Jessica Hutchison-Bough. “So we had to be creative in how we developed it.” By grading the property and reorienting the lot, Hutchison was able to produce the views the homeowners so deeply desired.

ARCHITECTURE Lee Hutchison, Urban Design Associates Ltd.

HOME BUILDER Randy Arnett-Romero, R-Net Custom Homes, Inc.

INTERIOR DESIGN Paula Den Boer, Ashley P. Designs LLC

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE Jeff Franklin, Jeff Franklin Design and Consulting  
BEDROOMS 4 | BATHROOMS 6 | SQUARE FEET 4,535

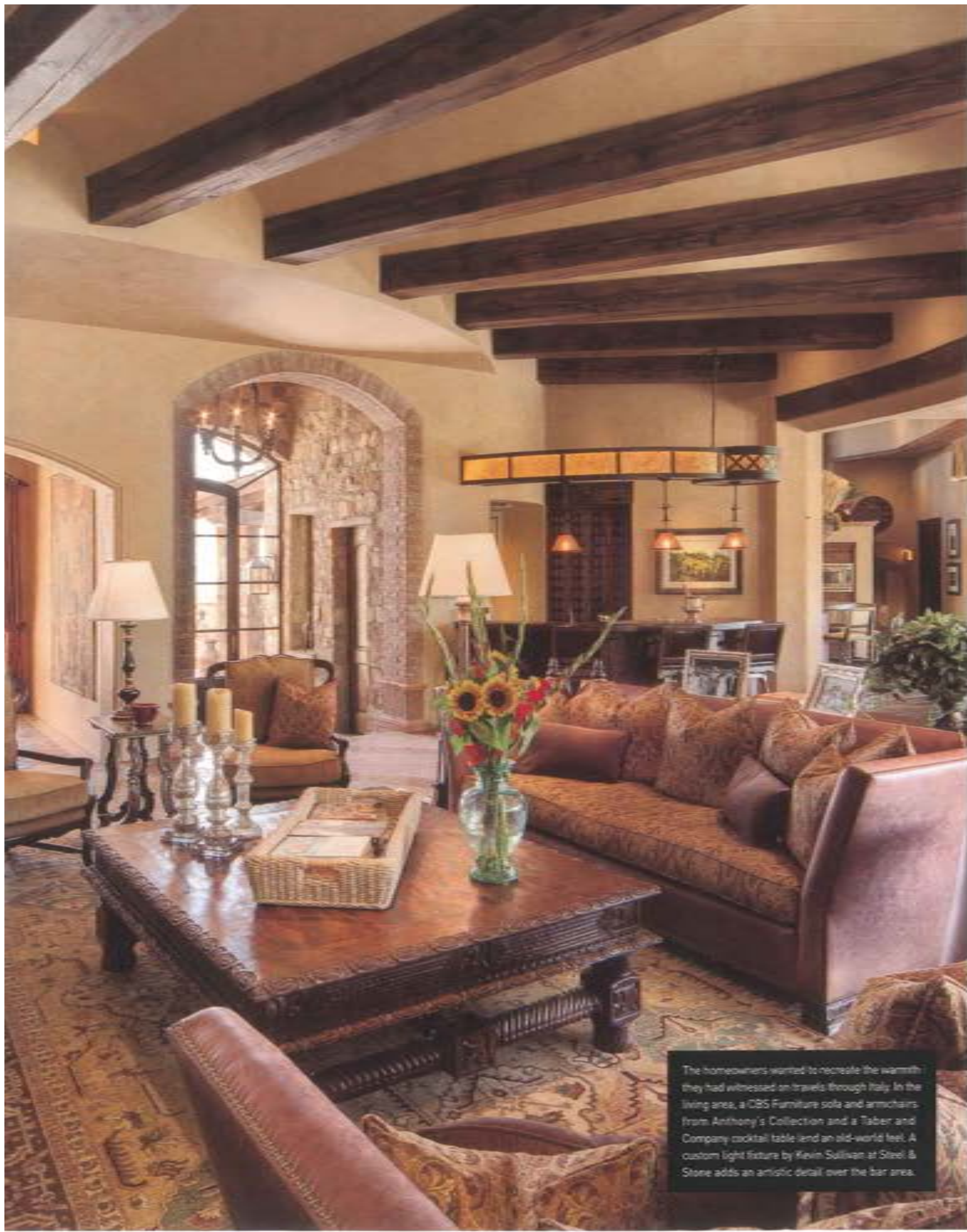


Steel and glass doors by Janus Custom Building Products add a contemporary touch to the foyer's aged walls. Tile in a basket-weave pattern, supplied by Handcrafts of Mexico, runs underfoot.

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The owners were drawn to Hutchison in part because of the architect's mastery of ceilings with notable impact. "Floor plans are how the house functions," Hutchison says, "but the ceiling can dictate how the house feels. The height, the textures: They can make the space warm, cozy and intimate or wide open to the outside." The ceiling in the great room, for example, features a radial beam pattern that draws one's eyes to the stunning views, whereas in a hallway that connects to the detached master suite, tiled barrel vaults run perpendicular for visual separation. Douglas fir is the predominant choice of wood throughout, with differing details and finishes to define each room.

An artisanal appearance is also prevalent in the home's stonework, a mix of limestone, travertine and granite, which flows from the front courtyard, through the entryway and back outside. To achieve this effect,



The homeowners wanted to recreate the warmth they had witnessed on travels through Italy. In the living area, a CBS Furniture sofa and armchairs from Anthony's Collection and a Taber and Company cocktail table lend an old-world feel. A custom light fixture by Kevin Sullivan at Steel & Stone adds an artistic detail over the bar area.

A custom chandelier crafted by Taber and Company is a focal point in the kitchen. Minton-Spidell barstools from Dean-Warren are outfitted in Kravet fabric to complement both the woodwork and walls. Reclaimed oak flooring from Vintage Hardwoods finishes the space.



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builder Fandy Arnett-Romero employed the techniques of ancient stonemasons, mixing mortar with grittier sand for an older impression and washing the final product for a look that appears to have stood the test of time. "The idea was to get a newly built home to appear as though it had aged over time," says Arnett-Romero. "The owners had witnessed this warmth in their travels and really wanted to recreate it."

A natural wash running through the property brought about one of the home's more interesting features: the isolated master suite accessed via an interior "bridge" that crosses the arroyo and provides a retreat for the homeowners. The exterior of the bridge was amplified by landscape designer Jeff Franklin, who helped cut in a natural water feature to enhance the arroyo. Franklin also worked to add privacy to the property itself without interfering with the views. He kept existing plant life, such as saguaro cacti, already in place and added 13 mature trees that would screen the home from the street and surrounding houses. "We wanted to keep what was there and match the existing plant materials and densities while also creating a sense of seclusion," says Franklin.

The loggia's sofa and chairs from Inside/Out Showrooms withstand the elements thanks to Sunbrella fabric. The carved details of the cocktail and sofa tables purchased at Tierra Del Lagarto perfectly suit the home's collected theme.



Above: A bed from Taber and Company is made complete with luxurious earth-toned bedding. Charles Pollock's Country Rush chair and ottoman from Dean-Warner brings in color with Lee Jofa's Sevilla fabric. Right: The master bath beckons with a tub from Clyde Hardware Co. A custom drapery feature by Ashley P. Designs uses Krawet fabric.

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Personal touches at every turn work to enhance the welcoming feel of the overall space. The homeowners' own photography and art purchased on travels play off the personalized ceiling plans and custom-made furnishings, including an armoire in the great room and a chandelier crafted of mesquite wood in the kitchen—both of which were conceived by designer Paula Den Boer. "The request was to have the home look and feel as if it was transported from Italy to Arizona," Den Boer says, noting earth tones were selected for the home's interiors because they are "a true Tuscan palette."

That palette paired with the exquisite craftsmanship throughout resulted in precisely the environment the homeowners set out to achieve, a place where family and friends could comfortably gather and enjoy a little bit of old-world style amid the breathtaking backdrop of the desert. **L**



In a hallway leading to the master suite, the ceiling's barrel vaults were made with pieces of tile that were left over from the home's roof. Lanterns are from Steven Handelman Studios in Santa Barbara, California; the rug is by Azadi Fine Rugs.