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First Comfort

Tuscany Meets Old West in a sumptuous Scottsdale home

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Bob Hatch sees nothing

Elegance personified, the living room is dressed in a palette of complementary hues. A conversation grouping of chairs wears a distinctive red-and-gold print.

contradictory in his and wife Karen's Tuscan-style residence being home to fine pieces of art depicting Native Americans, cowboys and Wyoming's spectacular Grand Tetons.

"Just call us the spaghetti cowboys," he smiles, making a good-natured spoof of old-time Spaghetti Western movies. With clear logic, he adds: "If people from Tuscany came here and bought paintings showing this country, they'd go back and hang them on their walls."

In fact, the Hatches' collection of Western-themed paintings and sculpture does appear right at home in the stone-clad north Scottsdale residence, with its cinematic backdrop of craggy mountains and scrubby desert, and with Tuscan-



"A ceiling creates the feeling of a room, whether it feels big or small, cozy, intimate or spacious"

Opposite: Cantera arches, limestone flooring and a stone groin-vaulted ceiling lend an Old World feel to this passageway opposite the living room. Lighting, including a series of mica-shaded lanterns and candle-style sconces, adds softness to the setting.

inspired interiors that are rich in natural elements of wood and stone. This cross-cultural combination suits the Hatches to a T: Well-traveled, they love the architecture of Tuscany and sought to replicate its charm; but having long called the West home—he grew up in Arizona, she's from Oregon, and they have a house in Wyoming—the couple wanted their new house here to have strong reminders of rustic, regional comfort.

The operative word here is "comfort," for while they envisioned their desert retreat as a place for their own relaxation, the Hatches also wanted a welcoming environment to surround their grown children and seven grandchildren during visits. When loved ones do come to town, they are put up in a four-bedroom guest wing complete with its own living room. Accomplishing this nicety and others was a design team composed of architect Lee Hutchison, builder Peterson Varley, and interior designer Billi Springer.

Beyond this gated estate's cobblestone driveway, a tall iron and glass door provides entry to an interior marked by a multitude of impressive sights. Among them are architectural features with Old World Tuscan- and Mediterranean-inspired character. Adjacent to the entry, a long hallway is bathed in sunlight by a row of French doors. Here, shadows play on limestone flooring, a series of cantera arches, and a stone groin-vaulted ceiling. "We had seen a groin-vaulted hallway with French doors in Tuscany," Karen recalls. This fascinating version is Hutchison's interpretation, she adds.

The architect, known for his ceiling treatments, conceived several for the Hatch home, including a barrel-vaulted brick ceiling for the kitchen and a pitched wood-beam ceiling in the great room. These were not arbitrarily added, according to Hutchison. In planning the house, this *Phoenix Home & Garden* Master of the Southwest says he asked the Hatches how they wanted a particular room to feel. "A ceiling creates the feeling of a room, whether it feels big or small, cozy, intimate or spacious," he explains.

The groin-vaulted hallway passes a living room with contiguous music and dining areas. Sumptuously appointed, and not overly large for this near-9,000-square-foot home, the living room has a cozy feel. "I call it a front room," says Karen. "Lee Hutchison would sometimes call it 'the pretty room' or 'the parlor.'" Whatever one calls it, pretty it is. No Western art here. The mood-evoking painting of a woman above the fireplace, a commissioned work by Arizona artist Ed Copley, reflects a classical theme. For this more formal space, Karen says, "I wanted cherubs and the look of a period piece—late 18th century."







This page: In the powder room, limestone forms the vanity and clads the walls. The unusual sink is an amethyst geode. **Opposite:** The vintage quality of this dream kitchen is heightened by a brick barrel-vaulted ceiling, tiled stove niche, mesquite island with adjacent demilune table, and pilloled limestone flooring.

This page: The master bedroom invites with comfy wing chairs, an upholstered headboard, and a layered palette of golds and creams with accents of chocolate. **Opposite:** Part library, part home office, part den, this multipurpose space is home to custom built-ins and an antique billiards table. The homeowners brought the Western-themed chandelier to Arizona from their Wyoming residence.





“This area is a testament to the homeowner’s love of the West”

An accomplished cook, Karen also knew what she wanted in a kitchen: conveniences such as a Wolf professional-style range set within a decoratively tiled stove niche, and an outsize mesquite island.

In a home rife with comfortable rooms and fine craftsmanship, Bob, too, carved out a special space—the game room, located down a full flight of stairs from the main level.

Builder Roger Peterson, taken by such unusual details as the powder room’s amethyst geode sink and limestone-clad walls, remains astounded by the game room. “It’s magnificent,” he says. “You enter it, and it takes your breath away.”

And why not?

Mammoth in its proportions, and warmed by a fireplace with an antique mantel, this area is a testament to the homeowner’s love of the West. Standing sentinel in one corner of the beam-ceilinged room is an 8-foot-tall cowboy boot. It was obtained at a fundraiser to turn Cheyenne, Wyoming’s, old railroad station into a museum. The game room’s 12- by 6-foot snooker table, vintage 1915, is cousin to a smaller matching pool table once owned by actor James Garner, located upstairs in the home library.

A wine room and a wall with three TVs for watching a variety of sports events at the same time, Bob says, completes this comfy Western haven.

Says Springer, a *Phoenix Home & Garden* Master of the Southwest: “This wonderful residence has comfort and honesty written all over it . . . every decision was made with comfort in mind. The furnishings are of the finest pedigree in materials and finishes, with the prime directive of comfort first.”

See Sources.



Above: Stone walls and a beamed ceiling are the backdrop for the rustic Western-style game room. Resting on made-to-match corbels, the fireplace mantel is an antique piece. **Opposite:** An outdoor room is warmed by a large stone-faced fireplace. The carved mantel bears an H, for the homeowners' last name.

