

GOLF COURSE GUIDE • HOT ZONE FOOD • A CHILD'S ROOM

# PHOENIX HOME & GARDEN

JANUARY 1997

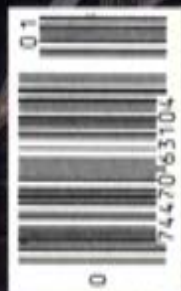
THE MAGAZINE OF SOUTHWEST LIVING

\$2.95

TREASURES  
PHOENIX ART MUSEUM

**THE *New*  
SOUTHWEST**

ORGANIC PUEBLO  
CONTEMPORARY HACIENDA  
TRADITIONAL IN THE DESERT  
THE SOUTHWEST GARDEN







Mountain views from pool or poolside add to an exhilarating lifestyle experience at George and Signe Klines' ridgetop north Scottsdale residence. A prime example of New Southwest design trends, the house utilizes indigenous materials, salutes regional building traditions, and incorporates state-of-the-art comforts. Landscape design by Phil Hebets.





# Organic PUEBLO

*Grand-scale  
harmony of house  
and habitat*

**W**hen is a castle not a castle?

Not a moat in sight, no sign of a drawbridge, a noticeable lack of crenellated towers, and nary a damsel in distress. Yet few could step inside the north Scottsdale hillside residence of George and Signe Kline without believing fairy tales can come true.

TEXT BY CANDICE ST. JACQUES MILES





PHOTOGRAPH BY MURRAY BOSSCO

A wagon wheel arrangement of vigas forms a halo over the sweeping chimney in the great room. "It's possible to have too much window glass," observes builder Ken Madden, "but Lee Hutchison knows how to balance elements and keep even large spaces intimate." Interior designer Bess Jones and the Klins selected ethnic elements from around the world, including this room's Tibetan rug, hearthside Tarahumara pot, and small Indian wooden chest. The carved table in the foreground and console against the wall came from All Wood Treasures. Sconces from Originals 22.





**Left:** All Wood Treasures carved the frame for a pair of antique Mexican doors to form the headboard in the master bedroom. Another Mexican door, banded with iron straps, became the generous coffee table set between matching asymmetrical sofas. Lamp bases are olive jars from India. Bedspread of raw silk. Lamb's wool carpeting from Daltonia. Floral arrangement by Michelle Fink.

**Below:** Furniture designers Jordan+Jordan crafted the library's pecan bookshelves, using medallions and other motifs from the antique desk shown in the foreground.

A former Lakers player (dating to the pre-Los Angeles days when the team hailed from Minnesota), George takes special delight in the views from his 7,800-livable-square-foot hillside aerie. "We have a ritual every night of watching the sunset," he says. "It doesn't matter who's with us or what we're doing, at that time of day we go outside. Arizona is beautiful at sunrise, but the sunsets are beyond belief."

The Klimes' homesite rests on a ridge in the McDowell foothills. One view frames a mountain vista; another, the vast bowl of the Valley, glittering after dark like an ocean of light. "The house is seventeen stories above the roadway," explains builder Ken Madden of Shiloh Custom Homes. "You can imagine the construction challenges this presented. But, despite the scale, the house nestles into its setting."

The deliberately unobtrusive Kline property employs retaining walls of a German-made interlocking block designed with cavities to fill with soil and native vegetation as a means of providing living camouflage. "We've seen some houses on mountainsides that stand out like a sore thumb," says George. "This one is colored a deep chocolate brown and is surrounded by a lot of mesquite, palo verde, and other greenery. From below, you don't even see the walls unless you're looking for them."

Although the various firms represented on the design team had collaborated on several prior projects, the homeowners selected them through independent interviews. Mutual high regard led to a more-than-cooperative atmosphere. "We insist on passing something called the 'barbecue test,'" says Madden. "When the project is over, we want the clients to be so happy with us and with the results that they want to have us over for a social cook-out."

In this instance, the regular party list includes architect Lee Hutchison of Urban Design Associates, interior designer Bess Jones, landscape architect Phil Hebets of Sonoran Desert Designs, Steve Oliver of Creative Water Concepts, and other key contributors to a residence that has already won two major design awards, the 1996 Gold Nugget and M.A.M.E.'s "Best of the West."

The team's creation follows the mountain up the site, with guest quarters at one end and the master suite at the other. Patios off the great room, breakfast room, and master suite, as well as the covered patio off the dining room extend the house's livable spaces, providing transition areas and



**Hand-carving also embellishes the beams and the mantelpiece that supports a collection of Mexican masks. Artist Bill Freeman created the shy armadillo sculpture on the coffee table drum, the pot by the hearth, and the seated figure near the trio of Balinese lacquered wicker baskets. A Tibetan pile rug rests on flooring of aged pecan barn wood. Lamp from Dean-Warren.**



Right: In the kitchen, architect Lee Hutchison and interior designer Bess Jones made innovative use of an established southwestern materials palette with intersecting vigas, pass-through archways, *latillas* on cabinets, punched tin door facings, and diagonal-set tiles on vertical walls.

Below: Each room of the Klines' multiple-award-winning residence features a spectacular view. In the west-facing breakfast area, Robert O'Connell painted the ceiling centerpiece to resemble an



PHOTOGRAPH BY DINO TONIN



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK BOSSLAAR

Anasazi pot. Woven leather dining chairs and rattan lounge chairs are from the Philippines. The rug was inspired by a Two Grey Hills design. Jones found the sculpture of the pigtailed woman in Guadalajara, the watermelon-eating koshari figure in Utah, and the antique clock in a western store. Doors by Kiesler Enterprises conceal a television set.

places for al fresco relaxation, complete with built-in wet bars and television sets secreted in strategic locations.

The great room's wagon wheel arrangement of *vigas* provides a stunning overhead centerpiece; a similar structure over the semicircular breakfast space also recreates in paint a geometric graphic pattern from an Anasazi pot. Sculptural chimney masses meld into *nichos* and display shelves for artwork. Venetian plaster gives an Old World texture and pigmentation to walls. Other surfaces of hardwood or flagstone communicate warmth, as do furnishings and area rugs chosen with evident affection for the Southwest.

"This house exemplifies traditional desert architecture in its massing of elements and use of materials," explains Hutchison. "But it is new, especially in the way it uses current technologies." Desert-sensitive design features include deep overhangs for sun shelter and careful orientation of windows and skylights. All eight fireplaces use propane to avoid burning wood. Flagstone continues from indoor spaces to patios—a visual and sensory continuity that extends interior boundaries.

Positioning the pool and spa at the front of the property seems at first a surprising choice. But the steepness of the site makes that the most clearly practical solution. The water features, with their rocky channels and graceful landscaping, further enhance the residence's immediate environment. The foyer offers dramatically framed views up and down hill.

"The Kline house is very free-flowing, curvilinear, and soft," observes the architect. "To meet these clients' needs, it's open and dramatic enough to be suitable for entertaining large groups of guests. It's oriented to the site's spectacular views as a way of recognizing the Klines' love for the desert.

"But its most surprising aspect," he continues, "is the way it provides them with intimate spaces. Yes, it's a castle, but it's a very comfortable one. There are plenty of places to be alone, curl up to watch television, or just be cozy as a couple."

"The most common reaction people have when they walk through," says George, "is the feeling that they already live here. Not that they *could*, but that they *do*. It may be new, but it feels familiar." ■



Glazed Venetian wall plaster intensifies the drama of the dining room through subtle vertical color changes and the contrasting richness of the keyhole-shaped display niche.



PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID TORRES