

PHOENIX HOME & GARDEN

The Magazine of Southwest Living

JUNE 2007

Cool Kitchens
Hot Ideas

www.phgmag.com \$4.95



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Going Native

Brimming with Southwestern appeal, a Scottsdale kitchen takes its cues from the desert

Offering up good things to eat, and a place where people naturally seem to congregate, the kitchen is the proverbial “heart of the home.”

But make that “hearts” for one Scottsdale woman. Having relocated with her husband often over the years in Canada, Europe and the U.S., the mistress of this Southwestern-style house has basis for comparison. “I’ve had lots of different kitchens,” she recalls. “In Toronto, there was a glamorous one in a chi-chi condo. It had lots of black lacquer and marble. But this kitchen is homier, cozier. I love its huge red Viking stove. I saw it before we decided to build and said, ‘Build my kitchen around my stove.’”

Having fallen in love with Arizona, the couple also wanted their kitchen to reflect the state’s Native American heritage and its natural environment, and to bring the outdoors in. A beautiful view of the desert and mountains is visible through wide windows in the eating area. Creating the homeowners’ dream kitchen was a design team composed of architect Lee Hutchison, builder RS Homes, and interior designer Bess Jones, ASID.

A DESERT PALETTE

“The homeowners were all about color and enjoying the native feel of Arizona,” says Jones, a Phoenix Home & Garden Master of the Southwest. “With this in mind, we worked on a kitchen design that

would bring in the desert, native art and their personal art.” Along with golden hues and touches of ebony, the red the wife loved so much in her stove is observed in varying tones in textiles, custom furnishings conceived by Jones, and works of art, many of which have a Native American theme.

AN ORGANIC FEEL

A wealth of textures—seen in metal, wood and stone—adds to the Arizona ambience, according to the designer.

“Every material has a natural origin,” she says. A hammered-metal vegetable prep sink in the center island is made of pewter. Twin refrigerators are clad in wood with Jones-designed carvings inspired by American Indian motifs (inset, left). Countertops are of granite. A rugged boulder supports a corner of the center island.

ISLAND LIVING

Topped with a wide slab of ebony-hued granite, the large centerpiece island is attractive as well as functional—exactly what the homeowners requested of the design team. “I wanted a big island—kind of like a grand piano—huge,” the wife comments. Ample surface area and an under-lit raised dining bar make this nicety a favored space when entertaining. □



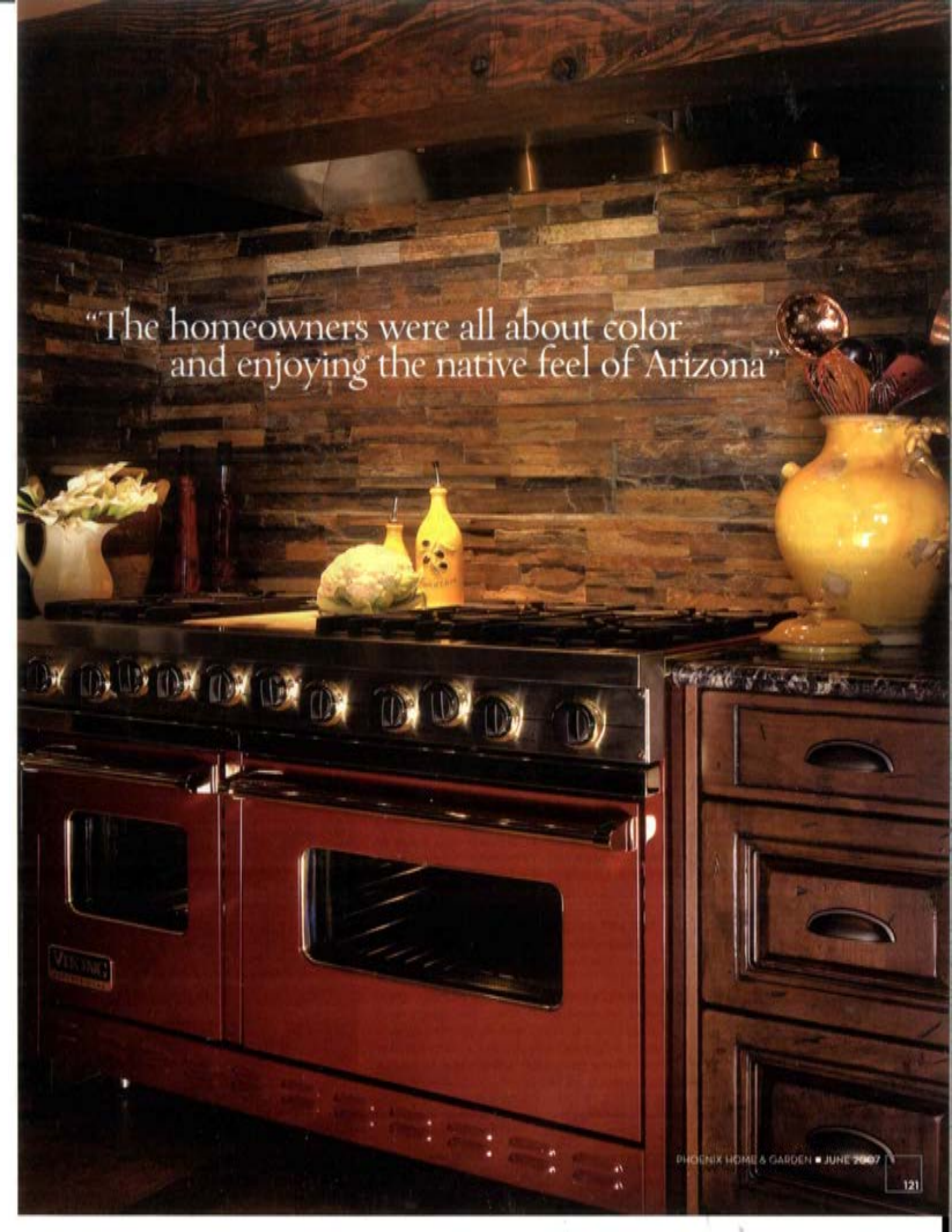
TEXT BY ROBERTA LANDMAN ■ PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL WOODALL



This page: Decorated with Native American-inspired designs, this beehive fireplace adds warmth and character to an already inviting kitchen. **Opposite:** The crimson Viking range rests against a backdrop of natural stone. A rustic wooden beam conceals the range hood and task lighting. Drawers with grocery-bin-type pulls are topped with a counter of Blue Barracuda granite.

See Sources.



A photograph of a kitchen interior. The focal point is a Viking range with a stainless steel top and a dark, possibly black or dark brown, body. The range has two oven doors with glass inserts and a control panel with several knobs. The backsplash is made of stacked, irregular stone tiles in various shades of brown and tan. To the right of the range is a wooden cabinet with drawers and doors, featuring a dark wood finish and metal handles. On the countertop to the right of the range, there is a large, light-colored ceramic vase containing a bouquet of flowers. In the background, a wooden ceiling with exposed beams is visible. The lighting is warm and focused on the range and backsplash area.

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