

# PHOENIX HOME & GARDEN

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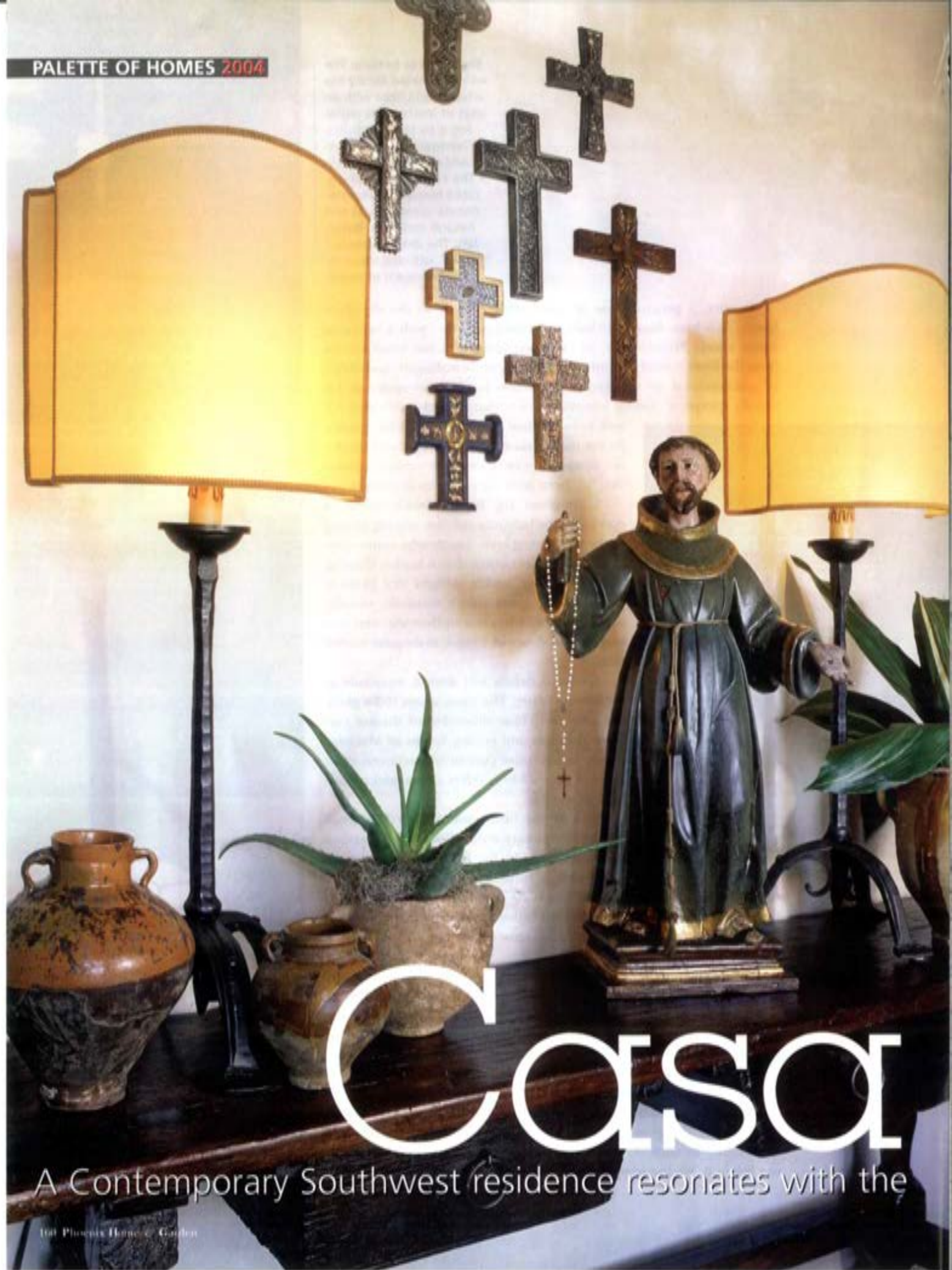
## Dream Homes

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# caso

A Contemporary Southwest residence resonates with the



From its welcoming entry  
foyer (opposite) to its cozy  
back patio, this north  
Scottsdale home woos with  
Southwest regional appeal.  
On the foyer console, a  
wooden *santo* holding a  
rosary depicts San Francisco.  
Hanging on the wall above is  
a collection of crosses.

# Rumba

rhythm of family life

Text by Roberta Landman • Photography by Dominique Vorillon



Although their house has a patio big enough to hold a dance on, it was technology, not Latin rhythms, that inspired Linda and John Wall to name their home Casa Rumba. Rumba is the name of a successful brand of software that John's company developed.

At least one family member jests, "This is the house that Rumba built."

A snazzy suite in this north Scottsdale home is dubbed the V.I.P. wing. The initials denote the presence of some special dignitaries indeed—Linda's Very Important Parents, Shirley and Lyman Maynard. They live in this Contemporary Southwest house full time, sharing the ample premises with Linda and John, and with a throng of family members who descend upon the place at holidays and vacations.

The residence, featured on *Phoenix Home & Garden's* 2004 Palette of Homes tour, was a holiday haven last year, Linda recalls. "We had the whole family spending Christmas night—there were 22 of us." In addition to occupying guest rooms, "They were even on air mattresses in the laundry room," she laughs. In a house distinguished by numerous fine details, that bedroom-size laundry room is not such a bad place to catch a few winks. Here, flooring is an attractive checkerboard pattern of yellow limestone and slate, and windows capture spectacular views.

The team of professionals that conceived and built this close-knit family's handsome new digs was composed of architect Lee Hutchison, builder Richard Sinagoga, and interior designer Billi Springer. Their mutual aim was to provide a cozy setting of understated luxury, one that took full advantage of desert and mountain views and also satisfied the homeowners' wish for an indoor/outdoor mode of living reflective of the region's historical influences.

Says Springer: "They wanted the Southwest feel in their home, of course, but a very contemporary translation of that. And they wanted it to be warm and welcoming, and also a great place for entertaining."

All these goals were accomplished after the rugged desert land was tamed somewhat. "The site was a challenge in that there were a lot of boulder outcroppings," says Sinagoga. He recalls walking the property with John, studying it, and then telling the homeowner, "We can put a house right there. But with so many big rocks," he chuckles, "he didn't see a bare spot on which to build." Moving boulders into the home's planned landscape allowed space for the split-level structure. Several other large rocks were left in place, and, "Like tips of icebergs, they remain where they are," Sinagoga says.

"John really did want a lot of outdoor living areas, for entertaining in both large and intimate gatherings," the builder states. That wish was real-

In the dining room, embossed-leather and distressed-wood chairs surround a custom dining table poised on chunky legs. "It's a very contemporary rendition of a gateleg table and replicates the ceiling of the room," notes interior designer Billi Springer. Flooring is of Hualapai chocolate stone. Paintings are by Alejandro.



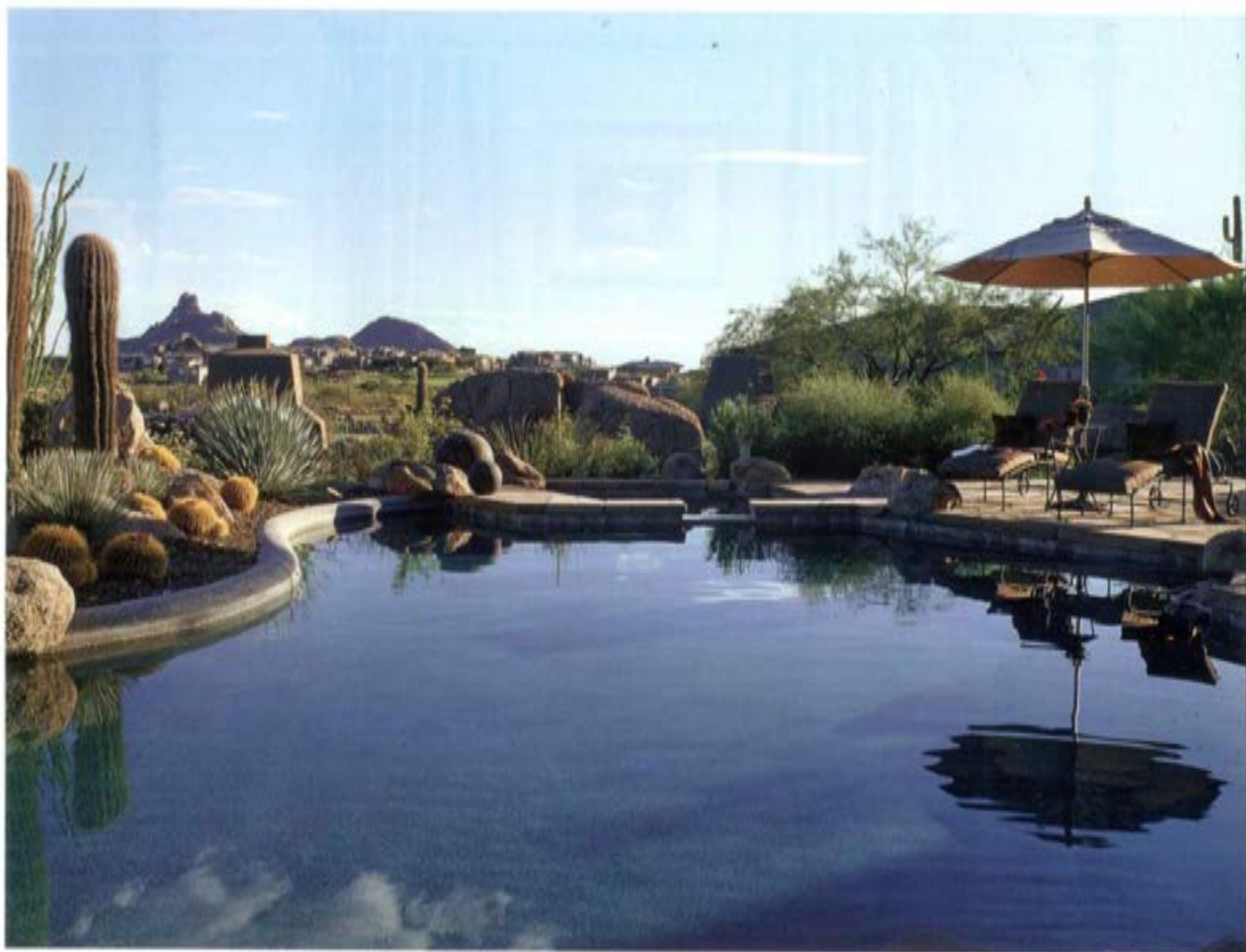


ized in no less than seven patios, four outdoor fireplaces and multiple water features.

The entry—a full patio—has a fireplace and room for seating. Wide and deep, this beckoning space is edged with a boulder-encrusted waterfall, and its steps and surface are faced with two types of flagstone and Hualapai chocolate stone; the latter is used for flooring indoors as well. “John wanted the outside of the house to be as tasteful as the interior,” says Sinagoga.

Inside the home, walls are sculptural-looking. Ceilings are high and vary in treatment from room to room. Square beams are buried in a series of angular coves in the living room, for example, and peeled *vigas* and planks laid in a herringbone pattern accentuate the morning room ceiling. “The purpose of varying the ceilings is to give character to the rooms,” says Hutchison, a 2000 *Phoenix Home & Garden* Master of the Southwest.

He notes that like all his designs this residence has a flowing feeling, though with the contemporary edge the homeowners desired. Toward that end, he incorporated angular, tapering walls for the exterior and interior of



the home. "There's some tapering, or battering, of interior walls, where windows lead your eye toward views of Pinnacle Peak," the architect points out.

"It is architecturally very intriguing," Springer says of the home. Named a *Phoenix Home & Garden Master of the Southwest* in 2001, she says, "Lee's designs are very curvilinear and sinuous. And his ceilings are the finest things, always." With these elements as her canvas, the designer painted a setting rich in Old World, Mexican and Southwestern flavor. She employed a textural array of materials and finishes, and antiques and custom furnishings to complement the homeowners' art and collectibles.

"Collections are very important to the Walls. They love the sacred images so prevalent in the Southwest," Springer says. A collection of crosses embellishes a wall of the foyer, a female saint statue once used in a Mexican church graces a living room table top, and, also in the living room, a large wooden standing cross commands attention. "It once marked the way to a village in Spain," Springer says.

A palette of washed taupe, burgundy and gold in fabrics, and walls treat-

**Above:** The pool sparkles against a distant mountainous backdrop. **Opposite:** In the living room, Mexican, Southwestern and Old World trappings meld into a charming and comfortable tableau. A female saint figure from Mexico rests atop a side table, while a tall wooden cross from Spain stands on the floor. Topped with glass, the coffee table was made from a pebble-encrusted antique Belgian wheat thresher. Views of the patio and pool area are seen through a wall of windows.



**Above:** A work by Diego Rivera hangs above the master bedroom's romantic silk-draped iron bed. Bedding is in rich chocolate hues.

**Opposite:** A gilt console from Portugal and a pair of elegant armchairs are the components of an enchanting living room conversation area. A silver cross and a religious-themed wooden wall-hanging from Mexico add to the serenity of the vignette.

ed with integrally colored taupe plaster add warmth to the comfortable home; and the irregular edges of stone flooring in main areas lend earthy Southwestern appeal. There are special details for those Very Important Parents, as well. In their impressive bath, countertops are slate, and stacked slate forms the surround of the tub. A streamlike stone mosaic design wends its way across the slate flooring.

One doesn't have to look far to realize that this house of sumptuous details is a well-lived-in family home. Framed photographs of generations abound, and, in a specially built kitchen niche, a reminder of years gone by is lovingly displayed: It is the doorjamb from the home in which Linda Wall was raised. On it are etched the changing heights of many children over a 40-year span. "We were measured on it when we were kids," Linda says. "And our kids were measured on it, too. It was just part of our family, so we had to move it with us."

In its new setting, the take-along artifact stands ready to record Casa Rumba memories in the making. 🍷

*See Resource Guide.*



