

Special Kitchen & Bath Issue

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hip, hot ideas!



Kiva House

Built with grandchildren in mind, this organic Pueblo-style

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home is one of a kind

Inspired by Indian dwellings, this kiva room is a collaborative effort of architect Lee Hutchison and homeowner Len Mactas.

"Home is where the heart is." If you add to this adage that home is also where the hearth and kiva are, you'll get a big nod of agreement from Lee Mactas.

When she and her husband, Len, a retired actuarial consultant, made plans to build their north Scottsdale home, it was important that it send a welcoming message to children and grandchildren. Four of their five sons live outside of Arizona, and they, their wives and a total of 10 children are encouraged to visit often.

Lee envisioned a fireplace hearth near a kitchen as a natural gathering place. Such a welcoming setting would accommodate the feelings of closeness and warmth that epitomize the family's get-togethers. "I wanted a hearth room like that of olden times, and it has become a special place for us," says Lee. "When our kids and grandkids visit we all gather in this area, and when they are not here, it's where Len and I have our morning coffee."

The kitchen-plus-hearth room in this 5,500-square-foot home is emblematic of an entire house planned around family reunions. And, with obvious admiration for the Mactases, Valley professionals involved in the project say the house in no small measure was conceived with the comfort of the 10 Mactas grandchildren in mind. As a result, they have some pretty special digs of their own—an Indian-style kiva—in this grand desert dwelling.

Of adobe block and stucco construction, in a modified Pueblo style, the knockout residence was designed by architect Lee Hutchison of Urban Design Associates and built by Shiloh Custom Homes. Nancy Kitchell of Kitchell Interior Design Associates coordinated the eclectic interiors.



Opposite: A custom island in the kitchen is part table with cooktop and part drum-shaped snack bar. "The MacTases thought of the kitchen as the hub of the house," says Hutchison. "We took the shape of the center island and projected it to the ceiling, as a hub, and vigas radiate out from that." Outside, an overhang of *latillas* forms a rustic pattern and shields windows from the sun.

Right and below: A cozy adobe brick fireplace, an entertainment center concealed behind punched-tin doors, and plenty of room to sit and enjoy a meal or treat make the kitchen's hearth room a favorite spot for visiting children and grandchildren. Tin-topped table by Ralph Lauren. The framed vintage poster over the fireplace advertises European chocolate.



Notable for featuring such materials as stone, ponderosa pine vigas and Saltillo tile in visually exciting ways, and for its livability both indoors and out, the residence caught the attention of the home-construction industry: It won the National Association of Home Builders and *Professional Builder* magazine's 1998 Platinum Award in the "Best in American Living" design category. The competition was for one-of-a-kind custom homes ranging from 4,001 to 7,500 square feet.

Shiloh's Ken Madden credits the MacTases with having contributed much to the distinctiveness of the house. "They are well-traveled, sophisticated, knowledgeable, open to innovative ideas and had good suggestions for what they wanted in their home. They wanted a kiya bedroom so that they could sit in the sunken conversation pit with their grandchildren and read stories," Madden says.

The spectacular circular room has four sets of custom-built bunk beds—each different from the other—designed by Hutchison and executed by craftsman Gary Kiesler. An entertainment center is built into one, and conveniently placed nearby are a wet bar and fridge for snacking. "This room was my husband's idea,"

Right: With its Juperana Viana granite slab vanity and clay-colored Kohler "Vessels" bowl sink, the powder room is a study in earthy elegance. Walls are faux-finished in burnished hues.

Opposite: The glow from a beehive fireplace casts a subtle gleam across Australian cypress flooring in Len Mactas' balcony-level glass-walled office. Adjoining the room, which overlooks the great room, is a private patio.

says Lee. "For Native Americans, a kiva is a place where everyone meets and settles problems and discusses things, and for the grandchildren, a kiva seemed like it would be a warm and cozy environment."

The kiva was a first for Hutchison, and it is only part of the unique guest facilities he designed. Because the homeowners' guests primarily are family members, he placed two suites, each with a bathroom, on either side of the grandchildren's central core area. "They're for the Mactases' 'big' kids," the architect says.

The grandchildren, too, have their own bathroom. Lighting there shines through a rainbow-colored filter and gives off a neonlike glow. "We just thought it would be fun for the grandkids," says Lee. "And they think that their Grammy and Zayda (grandpa) are so cool."

The residence, a standout for its interesting layout and details, is also fun for grown-ups. For example, the expansive great room woos with an abundance of natural materials in contrasting textures. Long stretches of rough wooden vigas cross a sculptural high ceiling. Australian cypress flooring adds a subtle gleaming warmth. Chiseled sandstone is used on the fireplace wall and, unexpectedly, above an entrance to the hearth room, as a shelf for art.

Interior designer Kitchell juxtaposed the earthy textures of this room with soft chenille on upholstered pieces. She covered an entertainment center's doors in Ultra-suede. "Upholstering a passage door is something that was popular in the 1930s and '40s," says Kitchell. "I think it's handsome." It is.

"Handsome" also describes the glass-walled office built on the balcony level of the house. Len's sanctuary, the room has the same attention to detail as other parts of the residence. The ceiling, for example, features square rough-sawn beams set uniquely across Saltillo tiles. A beehive fireplace cozies up a corner. A private patio affords Len a view of the nearby golf course, a lovely pool area, and surrounding natural beauty.



To add the upper-level office Len wanted and still meet neighborhood building height requirements, Hutchison placed the master bedroom suite below the main level of the house. The result, only a few steps down, is a private retreat, set apart from guest quarters and the din of visiting grandchildren.

Sculptured in a stair-step, free-form pattern, the staircase wall connecting the office and master suite has a Pueblo-like quality. It is one of several such elements in the house. Hutchison, however, says the home's style is not purely Pueblo, which is traditionally more boxy. "We call this organic Pueblo because of the flowing nature of the walls, which are soft and round, both horizontally and vertically." The residence, in fact, has several rounded rooms and ceiling treatments, features that are distinctive of this architect's homes.

The ceiling in the kitchen, for example, reflects the shape of the center island. Its unique bilevel design, a variation of one Lee had seen in a French magazine, was a collaboration of the homeowner, Hutchison and Kitchell. It features a table area with built-in cooktop plus a cylindrical or drumlike section surrounded by a polished granite counter and space for seating.



TIPS FROM LEE AND LEN . . .

Lee and Len Mactas were very involved in the design and decorating of their home. They offer the following advice:

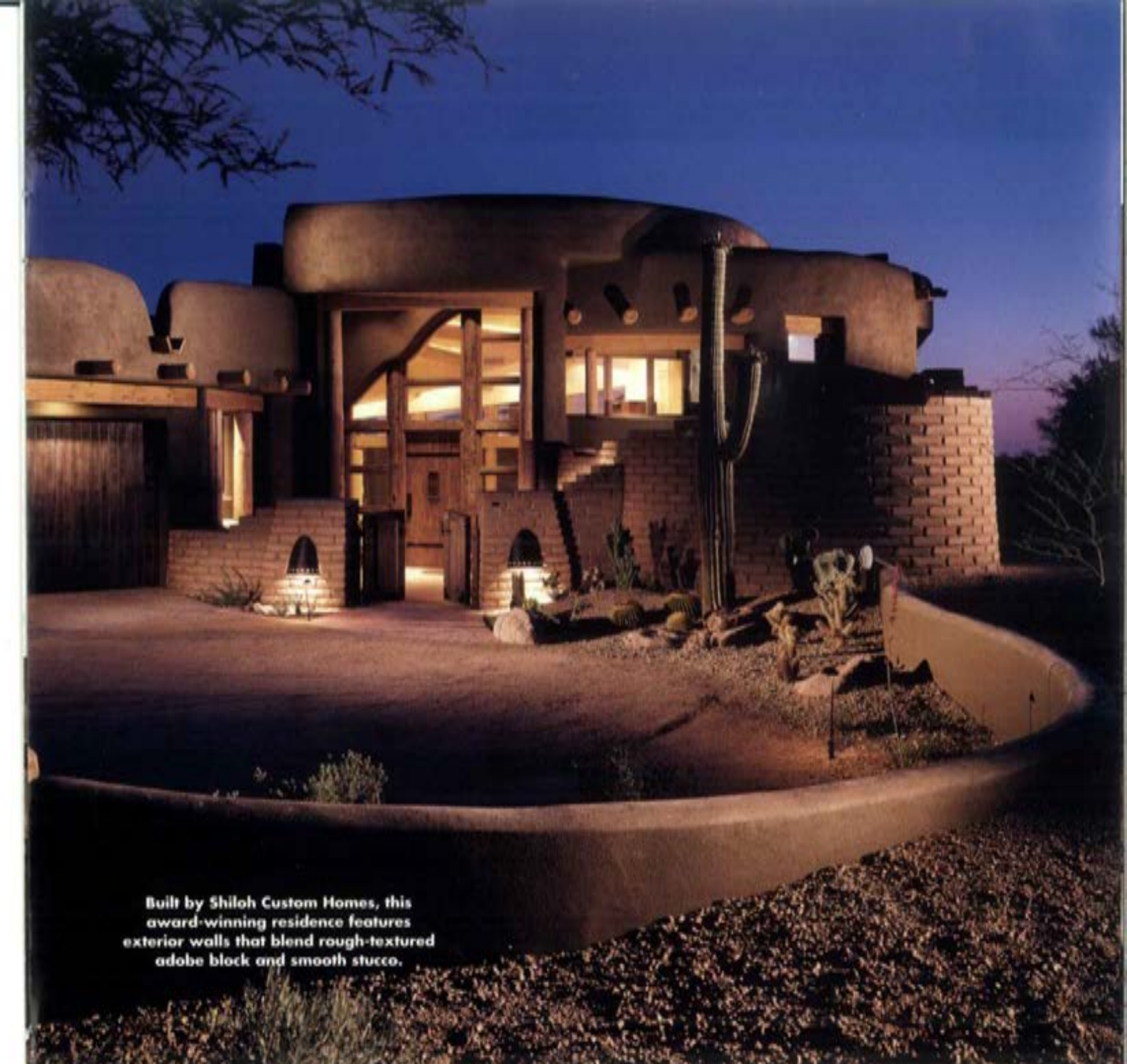
1. "Do all your thinking about what you want in the house in advance, not when things are already happening," says Len. "There will be a lot less stress." Adds his wife: "You also won't have to undo things and make changes, which can be costly."

2. "Be very involved in the design and building of your home, to make it special for you," advises Lee.

3. Good things can come from being adventurous and accepting the suggestions of others. For example, laying Saltillo tiles upside-down for flooring was the architect's idea. "We wanted something very understated and it worked," Lee says.

The homeowners asked interior designer Nancy Kitchell to create spaces that are understated, contemporary, eclectic and comfortable. In this high-ceilinged great room, as in other areas of the house, a sophisticated lighting plan conceived by Len Mactas diffuses light softly and evenly. Lightolier controls define specific areas, such as the fireplace wall and shelves for art.





Built by Shiloh Custom Homes, this award-winning residence features exterior walls that blend rough-textured adobe block and smooth stucco.

The kitchen/hearth room is just the cozy, welcoming spot Lee wanted. This is attributable in large part to an interplay of finishes, continuity of pattern, and textures in cabinetry, furnishings, custom tile and flooring.

Wall cabinets are stained in two tones of brown as well as green. The drum-shaped portion of the center island is stained a matching green and has a faux-painted checkerboard pattern. Kitchell says the checkerboard idea came from Joan Baron-designed custom tile picked for a backsplash. Then a similarly patterned area rug was found to

underscore the design. Flooring is Australian cypress. A sleek tin-topped dining table is in cool contrast with the warmth of leather seating. A punched-tin door at the fireplace wall hides an entertainment center.

"I loved the contrast of materials, and I thought it all worked really well," says Kitchell.

It does for Lee. She loves her kitchen/hearth room and the neat kiva guest quarters for the grandchildren. "I never wanted to build a separate guest house here," says Lee. "I want the family to be in my kitchen with me when they're here." ❁

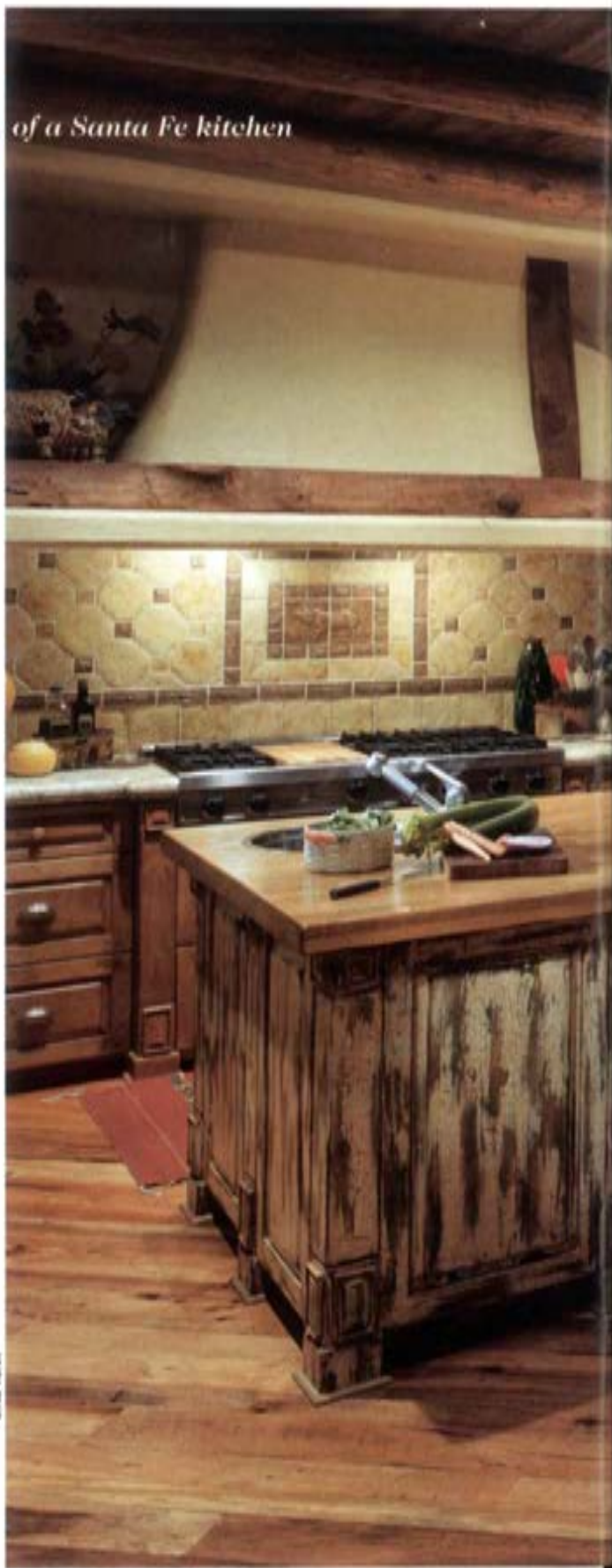
See Resource Guide for details.



*Concept: Create the look of a Santa Fe kitchen
that has evolved over time.*

Soft maple cabinetry in the Delhi kitchen has a "worm hole" distressed finish. A contrasting scrubbed finish was used on the butcher-block-top island to make it appear as if the piece was added to the room at a different time. The hutch on the countertop was designed to look like furniture, rather than standard kitchen cabinetry.

Viking gas cooktop, two Asko dishwashers, Dacor ovens and warming drawer, full-size Sub-Zero refrigerator and freezer. Appliances from Westar. Rustic hickory wood floor by Premiere Wood Floors.



DANIEL TOWN

Rustic Recipe

