

MODERN LUXURY

# Scottsdale



## 2014 RESTAURANT ISSUE

### The 50 Finest!

*Top Toques, Notable New Spots, Splurge-Worthy Experiences and More!*

### HOME ON THE RANGE VALLEY CHEFS' PERSONAL KITCHENS

### ENCORE, ENCORE RYAN TAYLOR WOWS WITH ARIZONA OPERA

### A CALL TO AUCTION YOUR BARRETT-JACKSON GO-TO GUIDE

### PLUS

SOUTHWEST MEETS MIDWEST IN  
A UNIQUE DESERT HOME

FROM AZ TO HOLLYWOOD, SEAMUS  
DEVER'S A SHOOTING STAR

VALLEY SALONS TALK TRENDS  
FOR 2014

THE SEASON'S MOST  
SPECTACULAR COFFEES

Scottsdale

JODI RICH  
SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

T 480.222.2204  
C 402.816.4121

JRICH@MODERNLUXURY.COM

8881 E CAMELBACK RD, SUITE C-210  
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251

MODERNLUXURY.COM

MODERNLUXURY.COM



ISSN 1548-1464



**WHERE THE HEART IS** The open, airy great room anchors the home, flanked by separate wings for bedroom, kitchen and dining areas. The necessary HVAC systems were carefully designed to not run through the main living spaces, but instead be concealed in the stone and timber walls.



**INSIDE OUT** From top: Embracing the mild Arizona winters, the family (native Chiricahua) often gathers around the custom-crafted aged steel fireplace outdoors; the residence's rustic-chic stonework; the multiple outdoor living spaces include a slate-lined sundeck.



## FROM PILLAR TO POST

A SOUTHWEST-STYLE HOME GAINS MIDWEST SENSIBILITIES AND A CONNECTION TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS.

By Carey Sweet

For all the beauty in every inch of the spectacular custom home at Desert Mountain in North Scottsdale, one element particularly stands out for its residents: the cabinets.

The owners—a Chicago restaurant family who maintains their privacy—had several barns that were falling down on their generations-old Midwest farm property. They carefully reclaimed the heritage wood, which was then refinished and used for custom cabinetry and trim throughout the house. “They also managed to salvage large pieces of finished cabinetry and millwork from their family owned restaurant, bringing cherished memories to their new home,” says Lee Hutchison, AIA, who led the architecture through his Urban Design Associates (urbandesignassociatesllc.com) in Scottsdale. “They brought stacks of photos of traditional wood homes and barns to start planning their dream home.”

In a rare-to-the-Valley style called post

CONTINUED...

...CONTINUED and beam, much of the 6,150-square-foot house is constructed of heavy Douglas fir timber, painstakingly crafted at an Oregon mill and seasoned for the low moisture content and custom stain process needed to protect the wood from the severe Sonoran sun. It was reworked by local artisan carpenters, then paired with new wood that was hand-weathered to appear old.

The look might be called a blend of Midwestern barn and Southwestern styles. As Hutchison explains, the timber walls were hand-chinked and finished much in the same fashion as a log home. “We haven’t seen anything like it before,” he says. “We are calling it: desert craftsman.”

To escape the cold Midwestern winters,

the family wanted their Arizona home to take full advantage of an indoor-outdoor lifestyle, so Hutchison added copious amounts of local stone, including Arizona slate, and brought the desert landscape inside through large windows and bifolding doors accessing deep, covered flagstone decks all around. The home centers around a great room with glass walls, making the need for interior art minimal, as views of Apache Peak to the north and McDowell Mountains to the south flood the senses. The ridge beam of the great room, too, was aligned with a nearby mountain ridge.

A negative-edge pool glitters invitingly, sparkling with glass tile and set next to an outdoor living room anchored by a soaring, aged steel

CONTINUED...



“They brought stacks of photos of traditional wood homes and barns to start planning their dream home.” -Lee Hutchison, Urban Design Associates



**ELEMENTAL DESIGN** Clockwise from top: The grand, heated pool; unique wood detailing is front and center in the kitchen; the home boasts expansive views of the surrounding Sonoran landscape.

...CONTINUED fireplace and chimney. And in a design accent prompted by the need to hide an air-conditioning system in the mostly exposed great room, mechanically operable windows were strategically placed to allow cross ventilation without inhibiting the views.

It wasn't an easy task for the builder, the Phil Nichols Company ([thephilnicholscompany.com](http://thephilnicholscompany.com)) of Scottsdale. “The biggest challenge was integrating the unique details required into the wood frame structure,” says owner Phil Nichols. “Extensive framing and layered wood beams were used to create the ceilings and wood feature walls, and in turn, the mechanicals and electrical that create this special space had to be integrated into the framing. It is a different style than anything we have seen

in the past in the Arizona Sonoran Desert.”

Another request? The grand kitchen. The island is a single granite slab, mitered to create a waterfall edge, and set off by stone backsplashes and steel-and-wood-timber trim. In the adjacent dining room, a glass wine cellar holds about 700 bottles.

“The joy of doing custom residential architecture is that you get to create a piece of art that speaks to the way someone really lives,” says Hutchison. “This family home started as a winter getaway and quickly turned into a labor of love.” ■