

THIS PHOTO: A hand-planed dining room table, antiqued silver chandelier, distressed velvet draperies, and foot-worn Oushak rug lend the dining room collected-through-the-ages appeal. OPPOSITE: The dining room table hosts mercury glass vessels sporting faded patinas.



Forging CONNECTIONS

Designed to accommodate a busy family, a beautifully appointed Arizona abode handily works for today while paying tribute to Italian villas of the past.

WRITER ANN WILSON | PHOTOGRAPHER LAURA MOSS | PRODUCER JESSICA BRINKERT HOLTAM



TOP: To capitalize on every available inch of outdoor living space, the home features a low-profile facade that provides privacy for a spacious front courtyard. **ABOVE:** Integral color plaster walls in the living room recede to allow understated sofas, a gesso-finish coffee table, and a lime-washed mirror above the limestone fireplace to take center stage.

Boasting finely furnished spaces for every season, comfortable places for all ages, and a layout that encourages

movement between indoors and out, this desert-oasis home—like the century-old Italian villas that inspired its architecture and interiors—was designed to meet the needs of family life.

There's always activity buzzing at the 7,568-square-foot home, which is nestled into a south-facing hillside in Scottsdale, Arizona. On any given day, guests will find teenagers splashing in the pool beneath the midday sun, competitive play at Ping-Pong tables on the patio, and burgers sizzling on the grill in the outdoor kitchen. When fall comes, adults sip cocktails in front of flames blazing in the courtyard fireplace before moving inside to dine.

"The homeowners are a very active family with five children, who were between the ages of 8 and 18 when the home was built," interior designer Caroline Tyler DeCesare says. "The family had traveled throughout Italy and they wanted their home to evoke the feel of an Italian villa, with interior spaces that respected Italian architecture and seamlessly connected outdoor spaces."

DeCesare worked on the project with builder Dave Reese and architectural designer Scott Giesen, who designed the house to resemble a farmhouse added onto over time. Courtyard and loggia walls built of local stone give the impression of subsequent stucco-faced additions. "Simple finishes, stucco and stone details, tile roofing, wood overhangs, and rafter tails create a Mediterranean-style exterior," Giesen says. "An abundance of windows ensures the interiors are light and open; it's a home that a family can really live and entertain in."

DeCesare opted for integral color plaster walls, unrefined surfaces, and European furniture reproductions sporting artisan finishes to imbue the airy interiors with Continental style. "All of the patinas are distressed," DeCesare says. "There is nothing smooth or shiny, nothing too crisp. We chose a neutral palette and added warm accents of chocolate, green, and gold to connect the interiors with the outdoors and create a Mediterranean feel."

Waxed white oak floorboards partner with oversize limestone tiles to lay an easy-to-clean, light-reflective groundwork for the thoughtfully edited furnishings arranged throughout. In the formal dining room and living room, refined textiles and furnishings issue an elegant welcome. But things move in a more casual direction in the sun-drenched kitchen, breakfast room, and family room with durable leather and velvet fabrics. And the private master suite is pure luxury, with a striking copper tub and a bedroom layered with plush fabrics.

"The finishes and colors connect beautifully to what's going on outside," DeCesare says. "The comfortable furnishings and subtle palette give the home a timeless feel that the family loves."

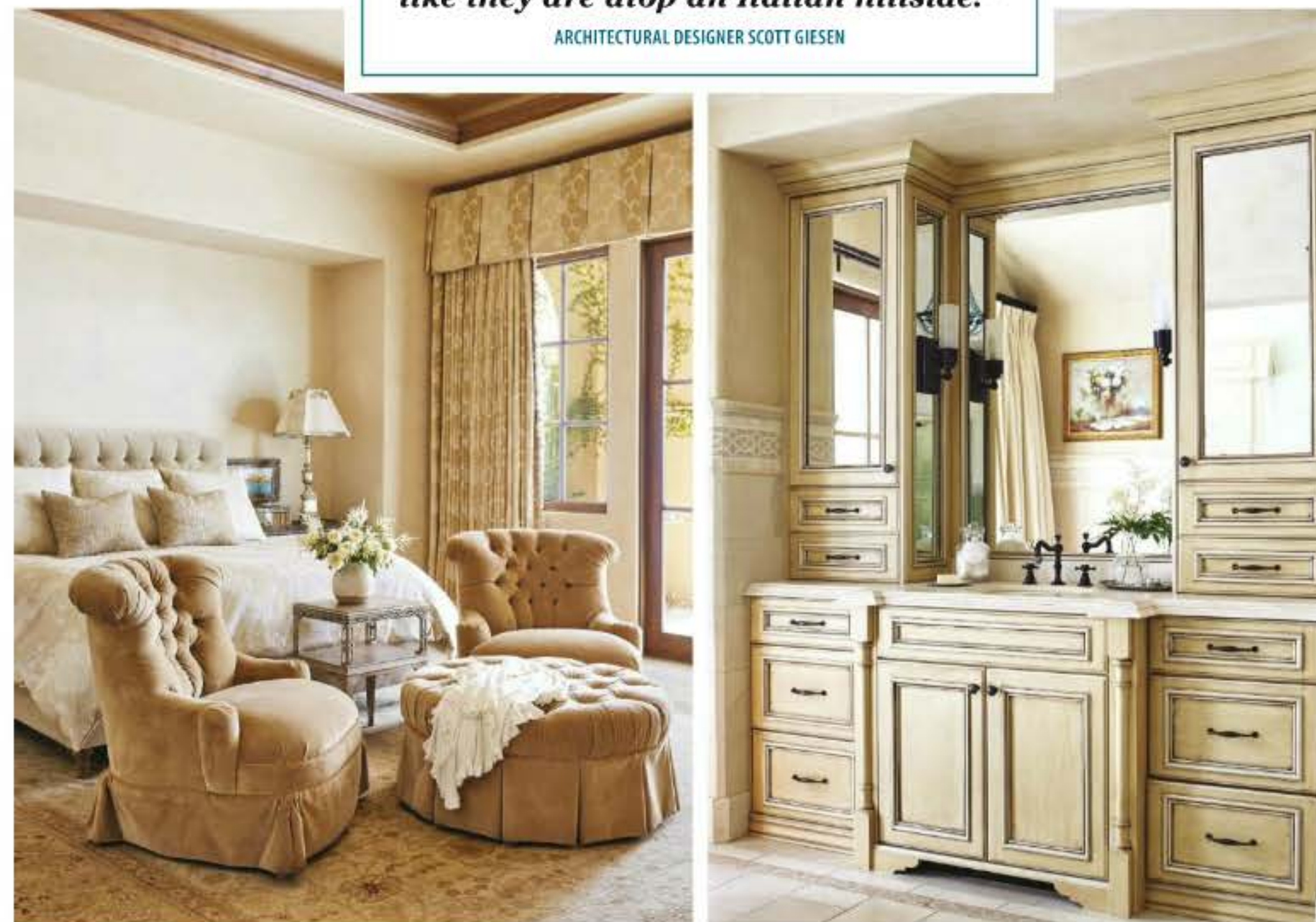


ABOVE: Leathered black granite countertops cap antique-glazed perimeter cabinets in the kitchen, while a distressed black-painted island crowned with limestone provides ample prep and entertaining space. The range is defined by hand-glazed backsplash tiles and a plaster mantel hood. **FAR LEFT:** A climate-controlled wine room located between the kitchen and formal dining room features an arched glass-and-wrought-iron door inset into a limestone framework. **LEFT:** Damask-upholstered walls trimmed with French grosgrain lend the powder room a jewel-box-like feel.



“I wanted the owners to open the windows, look at the views, and feel like they are atop an Italian hillside.”

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER SCOTT GIESEN



OPPOSITE: An arched alcove in the master bath houses a statuesque copper tub and French doors that open to a private patio. A band of earthen marble mosaic tiles makes a noteworthy transition between the limestone wainscoting and integral color plaster walls. **ABOVE LEFT:** A soothing cream-and-gold scheme, printed linen draperies topped with pleated valances, and metallic-painted accessories imbue the master bedroom with a refined air, while a velvet-clad headboard and armchairs invite comfortable relaxation. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Glazed vanity cabinets with mirror-front upper doors meet modern storage needs in romantic old-world fashion.



TOP LEFT: Stained and aged boards, rough beams, and smaller inset purlins introduce rustic authenticity overhead in the loggia housing an outdoor kitchen and alfresco dining area. **TOP MIDDLE:** Interior designer Caroline Tyler DeCesare found an Italian wellhead while searching for reclaimed elements. Modeled after wells from traditional Italian homes and softened with plants, this courtyard feature lends instant charm to the home's entrance. **TOP RIGHT:** A comfy open-air family room sits across the pool from the outdoor kitchen, suppling a shady spot for conversation; the curtains close for cabana-style privacy. **ABOVE LEFT:** Travertine pavers anchor a seating area snuggled up to a fireplace in the front courtyard. **ABOVE MIDDLE:** A wrought-iron chandelier sheds light across the length of the breakfast room's weathered wood tabletop. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Stone steps—softened by native plants and containers overflowing with flowering plants—provide easy passage from the house through the backyard to the pool, patios, and loggias. **OPPOSITE:** Rustic rock walls with arched openings partially enclose the sitting and dining loggias that flank the pool.

