

authentic beauty



A couple weave charming European elements into their new Arizona home, creating a timeless mood to complement their open-air lifestyle.

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THIS PHOTO: Brick door headers and a tongue-and-groove ceiling embellished with salvaged beams lend instant age to a loggia accessed from John and Denise Schultz's front entry hall as well as their great-room. OPPOSITE: The bar height of the loggia's dining table is indicative of the casual style of entertaining the couple prefer.



Experience has taught builder John Schultz that when it comes to creating old-world character in a new home, there's no substitute for authentic pieces. Add an antique mantel in one room and reclaimed flooring in another, then crown ceilings with weathered beams, and suddenly a new home feels gently aged. But finding the pieces is often a journey unto itself.

"We went to Italy four times over the last 10 years," John says, "and visited antiques yards and small country towns looking for decorator pieces. In Paris, we found antique fireplaces, clock faces, and furnishings."

John and his wife, Denise, stowed their finds until the time was right to build, and then, with architect Mark Candelaria, they designed their Paradise Valley, Arizona, home around the antiques and architectural elements. The goal was to create a home with soul and a sense of permanence that feels rustic yet refined, just like the farmhouses they visited in Europe. "We loved exploring

old European towns and places that tourists normally do not go to," John says. "The cities are beautiful, but both of us really love the countryside."

The home's easygoing elegance comes in part from reclaimed terra-cotta floor tiles in the breakfast room, beams salvaged from a Canadian barn in the kitchen, statuesque olive and scented jars in the foyer, salvaged doors and windows found at Texas' Round Top antiques markets, and a vintage water spout that powers a backyard fountain. Limestone and white oak floors, honed stone countertops, integrated plaster walls, and glazed cabinetry further the European style the couple loves.

OPPOSITE: Velvet-clad sofas and an English-style coffee table nestle in front of an antique mantel and tower clock face from Paris in the great-room. **ABOVE:** Blowsy borders of annuals flank the front walk, which is built from tumbled Indian bluestone laid in a herringbone pattern. The exterior's split-limestone veneer, slate roof, metal awnings, painted window frames, and deep overhangs take their cue from country French homes.



THIS PHOTO: Three walls of windows allow sunrises, sunsets, and desert breezes to enliven the conservatory-like breakfast room. OPPOSITE TOP: The kitchen features an extra-large island to facilitate buffet-style entertaining. The pendant lights above the island replicate French coach lanterns Denise photographed in France. OPPOSITE BOTTOM: John converted a stone trough into a sink for the powder room by adding two cast-iron legs. An antique French window frame hosts new mirrored panes.



“We built a home that *suits* the way we like to live. It was important that there weren’t any *spaces* we didn’t use.”
—builder and homeowner JOHN SCHULTZ

“Denise and I love country French style because it is light, bright, and comfortable,” John says. “We chose honed finishes and flooring that have a lot of warmth. We love to entertain, so we wanted our home to be inviting and to seamlessly connect with the outdoors. We created lots of interior view corridors that open to the outside.”

Virtually every room offers the chance to open a door and step outside, where front, side, and back patios encourage lingering. The great-room features bifold doors that simply fold away, erasing an entire wall of windows so the home is open to alfresco dining and seating, a koi pond, and sweeping garden spaces





created by landscape designer Jeff Berghoff to reflect a European aesthetic. “Denise wanted the landscape to be green and lush, with lawn areas for entertaining and lots of color and texture,” Berghoff says. “We made sure something would be blooming through every season. The materials, plants, and gathering spaces enhance the home’s European architecture and livability while being suitable for a desert climate.”

When they are inside, John and Denise throw open the doors and windows to enjoy breezes in comfortably furnished spaces created by interior designers Caroline Tyler DeCesare and Nicole Melde. “Their home feels soothing and looks collected rather than decorated—it’s stylish but understated,” DeCesare says. “We decorated in a very French way; it’s a mix of many European pieces that tell a story about the homeowners’ travels.”

The interior designers paired the European and Texas market finds with treasured pieces from the couple’s former home and new furnishings sporting French silhouettes and antiqued patinas. A calming color



THIS PHOTO: An arched soffit in the master bedroom creates a subtle alcove for the bed’s upholstered headboard and French-inspired nightstands. The sculptural lamps are crafted from salvaged balusters. ABOVE LEFT: Gray paint topped with a custom glaze gives vanities and cabinets in the master bath an antique look.



THIS PHOTO AND OPPOSITE:
Landscape designer Jeff Berghoff designed a steel pergola, which will soon be blanketed in yellow roses, to accentuate and shade an alfresco eating area accessed via the breakfast room. Pea gravel crunches underfoot in a way that reminds the couple of strolls through French gardens on their travels. The table features a zinc tabletop set on a pair of old pillars.



“The house is *connected* to the outdoors at every turn, so we created gardens that appear to be part of the home—the landscape is one with the *architecture*.”

—landscape designer JEFF BERGHOFF

scheme highlights the home's rustic architectural elements and the furnishings' refined lines. “The home's design is more about reclaimed materials than color,” DeCesare says. “We focused on using neutral colors and light finishes, such as the pale slate blue that Denise loves in the master bedroom, to create a timeless feel. We wanted to maintain a more rural, weathered feel that reflects the sense of luxury you find in old French estates.”

Bringing the products of a decade of travels together under one roof is just one of the reasons the home is so meaningful to the couple. “The greatest thing about building this house was that Denise and I did it together,” John says. “She did a lot of the design, and I focused on the architecture. It was a fun process—especially because we built the home for ourselves, to fit our lifestyle. The home lives great for just the two of us, but it works just as well when we entertain a hundred people.” ❄️