

THIS PHOTO: Wide-plank oak floors and an arched doorway in this new Arizona home direct the eye down the entrance hall to a great-room, where framed Parisian maps cleverly hide a television.

OPPOSITE: The guest house, which is one of multiple buildings on the property, blends into its surroundings. "All the forms are organically laid into the landscape," architect Erik Peterson says. "There's no symmetry. This creates a randomness that looks like the buildings have been added to over the years."





Casual SOPHISTICATE

Built to resemble an old French farmhouse, this Arizona home is filled with repurposed pieces and materials that offer a comforting connection to the past.

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TOP: A stone floor, rustic wood beams, and a honed-bluestone island countertop contribute a farmhouse feel to the kitchen. **ABOVE:** A 12-inch-deep niche with salvaged-wood shelves stores glassware for a wet bar.

OPPOSITE: A stone fireplace is raised to eye level for cozy dinners. The traditional table and chairs are crowned by a modern light fixture to keep things from feeling too matched.

Four chimneys resembling towers rise in the distance, echoing the peaks of the mountains visible on the horizon of the Arizona desert. Sunlight intensifies the richness of their clay-tile tops. Architect Erik Peterson has driven this winding road near Phoenix countless times, and the view always inspires him. The chimneys belong to a one-of-a-kind estate created by Peterson that includes a sprawling stucco home, a towering guesthouse dubbed “The Barn,” and a four-story structure that mimics an old grain tower.

When Peterson pulls into the drive, he’s taken back to those days, years ago, when he traveled to southern France while studying abroad in college. The structures he nestled into the hillside emulate the look and feel of a hardworking French farmstead. Desert scrub blows in a gentle breeze. Pea gravel crunches underfoot as Peterson walks toward the arched entryway of the 3,800-square-foot main home. Inside, sight lines capture views of mountains, high-desert canyons, and the city skyline. “You feel like you’re on top of the world,” says interior designer Caroline Tyler DeCesare, who collaborated with Peterson, builder Scott Pfeiffer, and fellow designer Kelsey Webb Hunzeker on the project.

The design team was strategic in reining in the scale of rooms for comfort, even as the views stretch on. DeCesare started the process by talking to the homeowner about lifestyle, not material things. “People tend to want to focus on the things you put into a house—a piece of furniture or a table,” DeCesare says. “I first say, ‘Let’s talk about the qualities of how you want to live.’” Such discussions with the homeowner, who is an avid entertainer, led to creating a space that has become a much-used hub: a spacious combination dining room and library that’s divided into intimate areas (a sitting area and game space among them) for guests to mingle in before dinner or for the homeowner and her blended family to curl up on the sofa with a laptop or book. “The owner wanted to live casually and comfortably, and not worry that someone might put their feet up on the coffee table,” DeCesare says.

That laid-back lifestyle dictated choices in materials and surfaces. Tumbled stone, reclaimed timbers used inside and out, and worn finishes contribute a relaxed vibe. “There’s the feeling of rusticity and time going by,” DeCesare says. Furniture is a mix of refined pieces repurposed from the owner’s previous home and new, more rustic pieces. “Nothing is matchy-matchy,” DeCesare says. “It’s gathered and collected. The home tells a story of life over the course of time.”

For Peterson, that’s the beauty of this new house. “There’s an authenticity to this home,” he says. “It has an old feel.” ✕

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Lined with niches holding books, the combination dining room and library is a lightened-up version of a traditional paneled den. Oversize light fixtures help define key areas, such as the sitting area in front of the fireplace.









OPPOSITE: Hand-painted tiles set off the master bath's soaking tub, situated to enjoy a view of the courtyard. "Mediterranean style works well in Arizona because we have a similar climate," interior designer Caroline Tyler DeCesare says. "We can celebrate the indoor-outdoor connection." **ABOVE:** Sumptuous velvet and linen fabrics in grayish lavender dress the master bedroom. "We wanted it to feel French and a little on the feminine side," DeCesare says. The linen canopy and caned wing chairs make the understated bed seem grander. French forged-iron curtain rods add an industrial look.