



Imported materials, native stone, and locally carved furnishings allow a Mediterranean-style abode to feel at home in its Southwestern surroundings.

Natural CONNECTIONS

Writer: ANN WILSON Photographer: LAURA MOSS Producer: JESSICA BRINKERT HOLTAM



Native cobblestones applied to exterior walls and hand-forged ironwork on the door instantly age this new Arizona home's facade. The porch's tumbled limestone floor tiles sweep inside, emphasizing the home's indoor-outdoor links.





B

Believing that life is better when you decelerate and savor the journey, the owners of this home in Silverleaf,



OPPOSITE: To subtly tie together the elements within the dining room, interior designers Caroline Tyler DeCesare and Kelsey Webb Hunzeker used gold leaf to embellish the velvet upholstery on the chairs with the same patterned motif carved into the breakfront's doors. A hand-painted ceiling draws the eye up and continues the room's subtle use of pattern to foster an air of elegance. **ABOVE:** Native plantings emerge from raised planting beds and stand tall in statuesque pots to soften the home's linear geometry and firmly fuse the home with the desert floor.

a golf-course community in North Scottsdale, Arizona, relished every twist, turn, and detour as they planned their vacation residence. The retired couple spent nearly a year traveling between their Connecticut home and Arizona to consult with architect Jeff Berkus. The design needed to stay within the community's Mediterranean architectural requirements, and they also wanted to make certain it incorporated an old-world medley of stone surfaces and reclaimed finishes, an open layout that suited the region's indoor-outdoor lifestyle, and plenty of gathering spots to accommodate friends and family.

The couple partnered with interior designers Caroline Tyler DeCesare and Kelsey Webb Hunzeker to select authentic details—from tiled roofs and wood ceiling beams to carved stone mantels and integral plaster walls—that would underscore the home's Tuscan aesthetic as well as its desert setting. Limestone floor tiles, for example, read as classic Old World while blending with the region's natural stony landscape; a mosaic mural in the kitchen was imported from Italy; the kitchen island is topped with granite handpicked for its desert-sunset hues; and a Murano glass chandelier ordered from a factory the couple visited in Venice crowns the dining room. The couple also spent hours watching furniture maker Scottie Reid crafting and carving the dining room

breakfront, living room bookcase, and iron-strapped kitchen island.

"The homeowners were just back from a trip to Venice when we started planning and building this home," DeCesare says. "They incorporated things they loved, which created an eclectic feel that is much more interesting than a one-note decorating style."

Worn finishes and formal flourishes combine for fetching vignettes. Furnished with an Indonesian wall hanging and a carved console, the front hallway previews treasures to come. An Italian-style limestone mantel displays an 18th-century santo figure in the living room, where velvet upholstery, patterned draperies, and a time-faded Oushak rug provide plush counterpoints to a rustic beam-lined ceiling. Things take an earthier turn in the kitchen: The antiqued cabinets, limestone backsplash, granite countertops, and iron details on the cabinet doors and the island establish rustic rhythms.

The master suite impresses with a splash of turquoise, which is neatly threaded through the bathroom's tilework before making a big statement as part of the bedroom's plaster walls. "They wanted this home to feel like the desert," DeCesare says. "We chose warm tones that had a desert and a Tuscan feel and accented them with the homeowners' favorite turquoise tones. The house is so them. It's comfortable but very finished—it feels welcoming and elegant."



Upper cabinets featuring seeded-glass door panels with iron details flank a stone range hood in the kitchen. Painted and glazed cabinet finishes mirror the warm honey color of the limestone floor tiles.





TOP LEFT: Artistic relics—such as a Fortuny pillow, Italian olive jars, an antique bakery tray, and a rawhide-shaded lamp crafted from an architectural element—bring collected character to the living room. **TOP RIGHT:** A comfortably furnished courtyard connects the guest casita with the main home. **ABOVE LEFT:** Desert imagery, a medieval wine bucket, and a rusty-hue pitcher create a multidimensional display atop a carved console in a hallway off the entry. An intricately carved wood panel from Indonesia crowns the console. **ABOVE MIDDLE:** A Turkish fabric throw anchors the foot of a four-poster in the master suite, drawing together the room's turquoise and camel hues, as well as the reds, greens, and yellows that appear elsewhere in the home. **ABOVE RIGHT:** A Crema Marfil marble countertop converts a carved chest into a vanity in the master bath. Indonesian in design, the vanity ties into the homeowners' love of eclectic pieces that showcase the evidence of a craftsman's hand. **OPPOSITE:** The master bath is wrapped in shapely tiles that were custom-colored to marry the homeowners' favorite turquoise hue with the rustic brown patina reflected in the carved vanity and copper soaking tub.

