



MANOR BORN

WRITTEN BY **MARK MUSSARI**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **DOMINIQUE VORILLON**

SITUATED IN AN ESTABLISHED PHOENIX NEIGHBORHOOD, THIS STATUESQUE ESTATE IS A SUBTLE INTERPLAY OF CURVES, ANGLES AND TEXTURES THAT WORK TOGETHER TO CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF CASUAL ELEGANCE. "The home is a mix of formal and informal touches," observes interior designer Caroline Tyler DeCesare, Allied Member ASID, who completed the project with Scottsdale-based Vallone Design before founding DeCesare Design Group in Mesa. A careful medley of finishes and a muted palette accentuate each living area, creating thematic continuity throughout the home. "There's a lot of focus on the tonal elements," she says. "Everything has its own patina."

In the formal living room, for example, a pair of gesso-painted armoires with gold-leaf accents and wrought-iron grills flanks the fireplace. A warm Oushak rug and a Paul Ferrante silver-leafed chandelier add further hints of manorial grace, as does a mid-20th-century Russian oil portrait that hovers over the fireplace. In the entry, a lacquered, hand-painted tortoise-shell table with metallic accents reflects burnished finishes found throughout the home. The subdued grandeur that defines the main

INTERIOR DESIGN Caroline Tyler DeCesare, Vallone Design		
ARCHITECTURE Mark Candelaria, AIA, Candelaria Design Associates		
HOME BUILDER John Schultz, Schultz Development		
BEDROOMS 5	BATHROOMS 8	SQUARE FEET 10,000



STUDY HALL

At the top of the foyer's stairs, cut-velvet bergere chairs, a Turkish Oushak rug and custom alder bookshelves from Phoenix's Desert Cove Woodworks offer a cozy nook for reading and relaxing.

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spaces carries into the master bedroom, where antique French lamps crafted of cast brass andirons and an antique French bookcase convey a provincial ambience. "We wanted a luxurious master bedroom that served as a retreat but was not overpowering," notes DeCesare. Shimmering drapes of woven tapestry, an upholstered French settee at the foot of the bed, and a stunning Niermann Weeks chandelier complete the Old World effect. "Despite its size and scope, the minute you walk into this home, you feel comfortable," says DeCesare. "Every space feels appropriately scaled."



TONAL TREASURES

Twin custom-made armoires in a deep gesso finish flank an antique limestone fireplace in the formal living room. On the mantel, a Russian oil painting adds its own touch of Old World elegance.



POOLSIDE MISSION

In the welcoming backyard—with its sweeping mountain views and landscaping by Scottsdale's Berghoff Design Group—cast concrete around the pool mirrors the subtle earth tones of Austin limestone columns and a rustic, Mission-style fireplace.



LUSCIOUS LOGGIA

With its towering Texas limestone fireplace and massive French doors, the outdoor family room exudes a resort-like ambience for alfresco dining and relaxing. The oversized mirror was custom-made from an antique cast-iron window frame.

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Working with long-time collaborators architect Mark Candelaria, AIA, of Candelaria Design Associates in Phoenix, and home builder John Schultz, of Scottsdale-based Schultz Development, helped ensure that the transition between the interiors and exteriors was seamless. Donna Vallone, principal of Vallone Design, credits the unity to the trust inherent among the members of the design team. "We've worked with Mark and John many times before," she says. "We have similar aesthetics, so it was a great fit. It was a partnership in the truest sense of the word."

And with the relationships among the key players cemented, the focus was placed exactly where it belonged: on the homeowners. "They wanted a Texas Hill Country estate," explains Candelaria, "so, we went to Dallas and Austin to research homes—in fact, many of the home's materials came from Texas."



SILVERY SETTING

In the formal dining room, a silver-leaf and crystal chandelier hovers over a dining table and chairs in walnut. Silver tones in the coved ceiling oval repeat in the antique mirror frame.



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Creamy earth tones define the stately exterior, its fascia consisting of thick Austin brown limestone, variegated with ruddy hues. "The stones were hand-sorted to ensure that all pieces were placed where they needed to go," recalls Schultz. Santa Ana clay shingle roof tiles were imported from South America.

Interior structural accents include artisan plaster casings and moldings on all major archways and room-to-room door openings. Antique French limestone fireplaces, imparting a classical European ambience, adorn a number of rooms, including the formal living room and the master bedroom. Throughout the home, dark wood accents juxtapose against color-infused Venetian plaster walls. Surrounded by alderwood cabinetry, the kitchen boasts three countertop materials: poured cast concrete

ISLAND DREAMS

A granite island countertop adds luster to the provincial-style kitchen with its glazed and painted alderwood cabinetry. Above the stove, a huge plaster hood is supported by corbels and limestone bricks.



DESERT LIVING
This elegant home imparts the feel of a Texas Hill Country estate—thanks to its hand-cut limestone exterior, sweeping archways and angular rooflines. A classic pool by Mossman Brothers Pools completes the outdoor oasis.



FRENCH KISS
In the master bedroom, Chinese blue and pewter tones on the draperies repeat on the linens and pillows on the Drexel Heritage bed, as well as the Fortuny fabric-upholstered French chair and ottoman.



STYLE SELECTION

This transitional chair from Cisco Brothers—shown in a Brevard Sea Foam linen—was designed to accommodate a book or laptop while supporting the body's natural form. *Cambridge Chair, \$2,865; ciscobrothers.com*

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on general surfaces, slab granite on the island and polished zinc on the bar area. The masculine library offers a cocoon of rich, warm cherry wood used on the paneling, bookshelves and the shadowboxed ceiling. "There's a timelessness about the color palette," notes Candelaria. "It's something the homeowners won't tire of quickly."

In every aspect, this grand house is unique among the older homes that surround it. "Homes here need a different feel and look," contends Candelaria. "Architecture should be like a suit—not everyone should wear the same one simply because they live in the same town." **L**

