

# FINDING BALANCE

Designed for entertaining, both indoors and out, this new Scottsdale home takes a simplified approach to classic architectural elements for a relaxed formality.

WRITTEN BY MAILE PINGEL | PHOTOGRAPHY BY WERNER SEGARRA



A

fter years in their adobe-style Arizona vacation abode, one Chicago couple felt it was time for a change. Like many Sonoran snowbirds, they desired a property with golf course access

and plentiful mountain views, and this North Scottsdale lot offered both. With this opportunity to build from scratch, they wanted to focus on creating an effortless flow between indoors and out for easy entertaining.

“We designed this house to feel like it has open arms that welcome you inside,” says architect Erik Peterson, who set the home high on its site to capture the vistas. His gracious entry sequence brings visitors through an intimate courtyard seating area flanked by two wings—one with guest rooms, the other with the living spaces and primary suite. “They wanted visitors to have their own defined areas but still be attached to the main house, not in separate casitas,” Peterson explains.

“The clients also wanted a fairly traditional exterior but a more transitional interior with lots of social space, inside and out, so this plan really offers that,” the architect continues. Once through the courtyard, the front door opens to a light-filled foyer that brings guests into the great room. There, an open living area and kitchen connect to their alfresco counterparts via large glass doors. The covered patio nearly mirrors the indoor space, offering plentiful seating, a generous dining table and a kitchen with a pizza oven. Extending beyond is a pool and surrounding gardens by landscape designer Jeff Berghoff. It’s just the indoor-outdoor ease the homeowners envisioned.

Balancing the contemporary open layout are historically inspired details. Through clever adaptations of 18<sup>th</sup>-century architectural elements (chevron-patterned floors, wall and crown moldings, coffered ceilings, exterior openings cased with limestone), Peterson introduced a sense of relaxed formality. These simplified, crisp nods toward classic design add an elevated feel without being stuffy. “It’s a Santa Barbara style but not too rustic,” general contractor Anthony

Salcito notes. “Erik gave it these cleaner lines and a more modern look. It’s a nice mix.”

“Because the owners’ previous home here was adobe style, they were really open to doing things differently with this house,” interior designer Lissa Lee Hickman adds. The goal was to create calmingly monochromatic rooms that encourage togetherness while being durable enough for grandkids, challenges the designer met with stain-treated fabrics, synthetic leathers and quartzite countertops. “I like to think of it as ‘approachable glamour,’” she muses.

Hickman kept to a soft palette throughout the dwelling but carefully crafted moments of darker color for visual interest, like the charcoal-blue washable velvet of the living area’s armchairs. “Using different finishes and textures makes the rooms feel more layered and collected,” she says, noting how the veining of the great room’s stonework speaks to the graining of the wood floors and kitchen cabinetry while playfully echoing the mountain views. When furnishing the adjacent covered patio, Hickman sought “equally comfy” upholstered pieces to ensure that it augmented the great room as “a dual living space,” she says.

Off the kitchen is the formal dining room, a separate and more defined space where Hickman included a polished-steel wine cabinet and again found cozy upholstered seating for the fire pit just outside. “As with the great room, both spaces can be enjoyed at the same time,” the designer explains. “You can open up the dining room and people can lounge both inside and out.”

Balancing the happy hubbub of the public spaces is the couple’s bedroom suite at the far end of the house. Soft whites and grays highlight the room’s decorative moldings, while subtle prints and textures play on the desert terrain. Personalizing the suite is a sky-lit seating area where the couple can enjoy quieter pursuits, like reading and needlework. “This house is a great example of how a home can be elegant and user-friendly at the same time,” Hickman says.

“I think this mix of Spanish styling with formal and contemporary elements was really exciting for all of us,” Peterson adds. “The result is luxurious and modern but livable, because it’s also cozy.” ■



Chevron white oak from Premiere Wood Floors sets an elevated European vibe in the foyer, where custom benches tuck under consoles topped with Visual Comfort & Co. lamps. The Hammerton Studio chandelier and sconces are from Hinkley’s Lighting.

**Previous page:** Architect Erik Peterson and designer Lissa Lee Hickman crafted this Scottsdale home with entertaining in mind. The living room’s chandelier by Wired Custom Lighting illuminates pieces from John Brooks, including a Miksi rug as well as a Trosca sofa and armchairs. The coffee table and console are custom.

Sub-Zero and Wolf appliances are integrated into kitchen cabinets by Distinctive Custom Cabinetry. Bright Chair stools pull up to the Mont Blanc quartzite-topped island, which showcases a Brizo faucet from Studio41. Above are Visual Comfort & Co. pendants.





**Above:** The cocktail area was designed as a separate space to make entertaining easy. Distinctive Custom Cabinetry inset the white oak bar with polished steel and mirror components, using Mont Blanc quartzite from Arizona Tile for the countertops.

**Opposite:** Hickman chose a textural wallcovering by Innovations for the dining room, adding a custom credenza and table surrounded by Artistic Frame chairs. The Studio Bel Vetro chandelier was sourced from John Brooks.



An Innovations wallcovering backdrops the primary bedroom's custom bed and bench. Between the windows by Lincoln Windows and the Neolith porcelain-clad fireplace are an armchair and ottoman by Rene Cazares. The chandelier is Visual Comfort & Co.





Lane Venture seating from Inside/Out Showrooms joins coffee and side tables by Palecek on the covered terrace. The home's exterior limestone is from Casa de Cantera, and the pool was built by Phoenician Pool Construction.