

getting formal

WITH EACH CLEVER MOVE, A PERCEPTIVE COUPLE IN THE DESIGN/BUILD BUSINESS EMBRACE A TREND TOWARD ELEGANT CLEAN LINES IN THEIR OWN SCOTTSDALE HOME.

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INTERIOR DESIGN Rebecca Salcito, Salcito Custom Homes
HOME BUILDER Anthony J. Salcito Jr., Salcito Custom Homes
ARCHITECTURE Dale Gardon, Dale Gardon Design
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE Jeff Berghoff, Berghoff Design Group
BEDROOMS 4 | BATHROOMS 5 | SQUARE FEET 7,600

Formality starts in the foyer, with its straight-through view of the 65-foot-long pool and striking guesthouse. Glamorous trappings—such as a floor made of brushed Negro Marquina and antiqued Botticino Italian marble, a rock crystal chandelier and draperies fashioned from de Le Cuona silk-velvet—accentuate its classic beauty.



It has been said that the average American who owns a home will stay in it for roughly 13 years before moving out and buying another. But “not if you’re in the business,” quips residential and commercial general contractor Anthony J. Salcito Jr., who believes that this statistic is considerably lower for home builders and has numerous change of address records to prove this exact point. In the past 10 years, he and his wife, Rebecca, an interior designer who also works in their family-owned business, have built and lived in three homes before spending time in another with their two young sons while completing their current residence in Scottsdale’s luxurious Silverleaf community.

“It’s an industry hazard,” teases Rebecca. “When you see all of these intriguing new options in the marketplace, you want to try them out yourself. And then every time that happens, we move.” Inspiration for

Designer and homeowner Rebecca Salcito enlarged the family room’s existing sectional, fabricated by SR Drost Manufacturing, and re-covered it in dove gray linen. She then added glamour with a Kyle Bunting fused-hide rug from John Brooks and a coffee table of her own design featuring polished-nickel feet and a glossy automotive paint-finished top.

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the layout of the new house came from the land beneath it—a 1.71-acre lot with unobstructed mountain views and a desirable configuration. “The minute Anthony saw it, he decided to buy it,” she continues.

But figuring out what to do next was trickier. “Our taste has become more clean and modern over the last decade,” says Anthony, who characterizes their first home as “a relaxed contemporary Pueblo,” and the last one as “Spanish Colonial but slightly more formal.” Also, “their new property called for a really thoughtful, and significant, design because it’s at the intersection of two of Silverleaf’s most prominent streets,” says architect Dale Gardon, who collaborates frequently with the Salcitos and has designed most of their personal projects. “Anthony’s really astute and always in the vanguard when it comes to design, which is why he wanted to analyze all his options before building again.”

Acumen schooled by daily exposure to design trends motivated the Salcitos to opt for a formal Mediterranean home this time around. “It let them fulfill their needs, but also reflects the most compelling new shifts in the business,” explains Gardon. Chief among these is a growing inclination “in this area for architecture that’s more timeless and classical,” adds the architect, who in fact wrote the community’s architecturally rigorous design guidelines and takes great delight in the fact that “the house has really attracted a lot of attention in the neighborhood. People literally stop their cars to take a closer look at it.” Ultimately, “it was the style we felt we could keep the most clean-lined yet modern,” Anthony says.



An enfilade of spaces from the kitchen to the family room defined by effective architectural detailing promotes family togetherness. Rustic references, from the kitchen’s carved stove surround designed by Rebecca to the Amy Howard armoire, are balanced with Groundwork’s zinc-topped dining table, purchased through Dering Hall, and Lewis Mittman chairs. Handsome Vaughan light fixtures in both spaces are from Jasper Showroom in West Hollywood, California.



Thoughtful architectural features, such as deep loggias and a custom fireplace fashioned from hand-carved imported limestone, make the outdoor living and dining areas usable year-round. Comfortable seating from Restoration Hardware accented with Ralph Lauren pillows from Brandt's gets a dose of elegance from an opulent Tara Shaw Maison cocktail table.



Statement-making pieces from On the Veranda, such as a cast-concrete dining table and an antique mirror and console, shape an outdoor dining area that is suitable for either family meals or formal occasions.

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The structure that ensued, with its pristine stucco façade, clay tile roof and stately limestone-trimmed French doors and windows, is every bit patrician Mediterranean on the exterior, with the inside boasting a more clean-lined interpretation. "We wanted it to be a real family home with spaces we could all use at the same time," explains Anthony. To that end, the contemporary layout and detailing are designed for 21st-century living. A formal living and dining room share one extra-large soaring space for entertaining ease; the kitchen, informal dining area and family room allow for generational togetherness while cooking, eating, playing, and watching TV; and the outdoor areas are as fully



Rebecca wanted Ralph Lauren's Persia bed ever since she first saw it almost a decade ago, and finally found the right fit for it in this home. She paired it with a David latesta nightstand and an antique gilt mirror from 1stdibs, and balanced the opulence of these pieces with a mod Amy Howard Lucite bench, upholstered in Zimmer + Rohde silk-satin from McNamara & Hirschman, and a Mongolian lambskin rug from Pure in Los Angeles.



Above: A sitting room mirrors the master bedroom across the way, and sports a matching Mongolian lambskin rug, a custom sofa covered in Sahco fabric from John Brooks and a Hendrix Allardyce leather ottoman that doubles as a coffee table. Charcoal drawings by Kerri Sabine evoke a serene ambience. Left: In the master bath, a romantic tub from Clyde Hardware takes center stage.



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comfortable, spacious and multi-functional as those inside, boasting ample seating space backed by beautiful grounds conceived by landscape designer Jeff Berghoff featuring rows of clipped hedges and annual blooms.

The home's design also allowed Rebecca to flex her increasingly refined style sensibilities—taking more chances with pattern and texture to glamorous effect. The designer recovered contemporary pieces they already owned in richer fabrics; used statement-making carpets or stone tiles to anchor every space; and crowned every room with dazzling fixtures or chandeliers. "It really reflects our shared and evolving aesthetic," she says.

Which begs the obvious: How long will they stay? "I really have no idea," Anthony says. "But we expect to live in this one for awhile. The home really suits our needs, at least until we both get the itch to do it all over again." **L**