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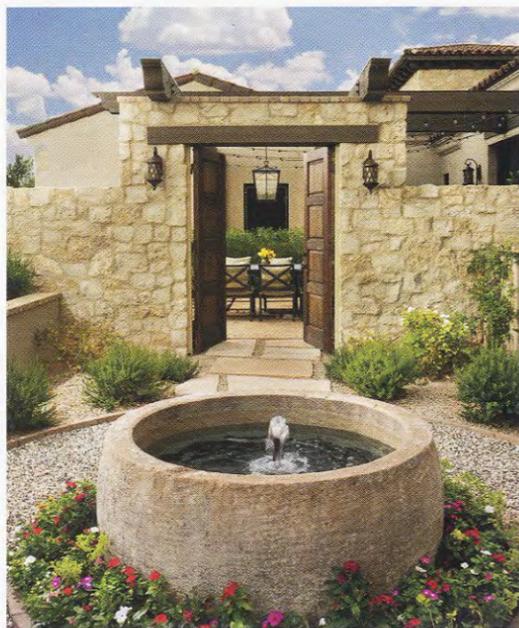
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# Building Memories

Designed With Family in Mind, a Chandler Home Exemplifies Both Elegance and Entertainment

WRITTEN BY MICHELLE JACOBY  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL WOODALL  
AND CHRIS LOOMIS



**ABOVE:** Architect Dale Gardon was inspired by the charming villas found in the French and Italian countryside when he designed this Mediterranean-style villa with clean lines and modern touches.

**LEFT:** Natural stone treatments, rustic wood accents, decorative ironwork and intimate tucked-away spaces abound, giving the home a true destination-style quality.



An outdoor dining area adjacent to the home's front courtyard takes dining al fresco to a whole new level. Also connected to the interior formal dining room via sliding glass doors, the combined spaces give the homeowners the ability to seat 20 to 30 guests.



At the heart of the home is a comfortably chic living room decorated in rich yet subtle earth tones that perfectly complement the stone fireplace wall and wood ceiling beams. The owners invite friends and family to gather here before sitting down to dinner in the formal dining room or strolling through the backyard oasis.

**B**uilding a home can sometimes be like going on a journey without a road map: uncertain yet promising; daunting yet exhilarating. Such was the case for one Chandler couple, who saw the opportunity to construct a new house as a way to create a place for their family to connect and grow.

“When we first began to envision the home, we knew we wanted a place that had a gravitational pull, if you will, to it,” the husband says. “A place that brings everyone—friends, family, guests—together.”

With two teenage sons and a young daughter, the couple wanted a home in which they could raise their family and that would also house the most special moments in their lives. They envisioned a yard filled with their children’s friends, splashing in the pool on a warm summer day or throwing the ball on the verdant lawn. They imagined a welcoming respite for guests and treating them to a stay worthy of a five-star resort.



A cozy breakfast table with plenty of space for the family of five sits just steps away from the gourmet kitchen. The area is a hub for easy morning routines, such as grabbing a quick bite to eat or enjoying a cup of coffee while reading the newspaper.



**OPPOSITE:** With plenty of room for family and visiting friends, the kitchen always bustles with activity. A wood-topped table extension with leather bar-style seating is the perfect place for the kids to have a snack while doing their homework as the couple prepares dinner. Custom cabinetry holds all of the essentials, keeping the counters clutter-free.

**ABOVE:** Exuding a French country style, the formal dining room, which comfortably seats 12, enjoys an intimate and luxurious ambiance thanks to sumptuous tailored draperies that can be pulled shut for privacy.

**LEFT:** The cozy lounge is a fantastic place for entertaining. Guests can relax in wingback chairs in front of a roaring fire or pull up a plush seat at the bar. The granite countertop mimics the look and feel of wood.

They dreamed of rooms in which family and friends could gather to celebrate holidays and special celebrations.

Their vision became a reality when they moved into their nearly 13,000-square-foot home in a private enclave of a master-planned community in south Chandler. Sprawled on two generous lots, the multilevel home features two floors and a basement, six bedrooms, a guest casita, family entertainment area, wine room, exercise room with sauna, outdoor retreat with a pool and numerous outdoor play areas.

“The original design was a more vertically condensed composition,” says architect and *Phoenix Home & Garden* Masters of the Southwest award winner Dale Gardon. “It became clear that spreading the home across two lots would benefit the layout and graciousness of the indoor-outdoor connectivity.”

As for the home’s appearance, Gardon was inspired by a rural Mediterranean-style villa, one you might find in the French or Italian countryside but with more clean lines and modern touches. “It’s not overly ornate and certainly not ostentatious



We knew we wanted a place that brings everyone—  
friends, family, guests—together.

—The homeowner



in any way," he says. "It's very casual, comfortable and, most importantly, purposeful. Every space is usable, and you can just slip in and enjoy all the individual zones."

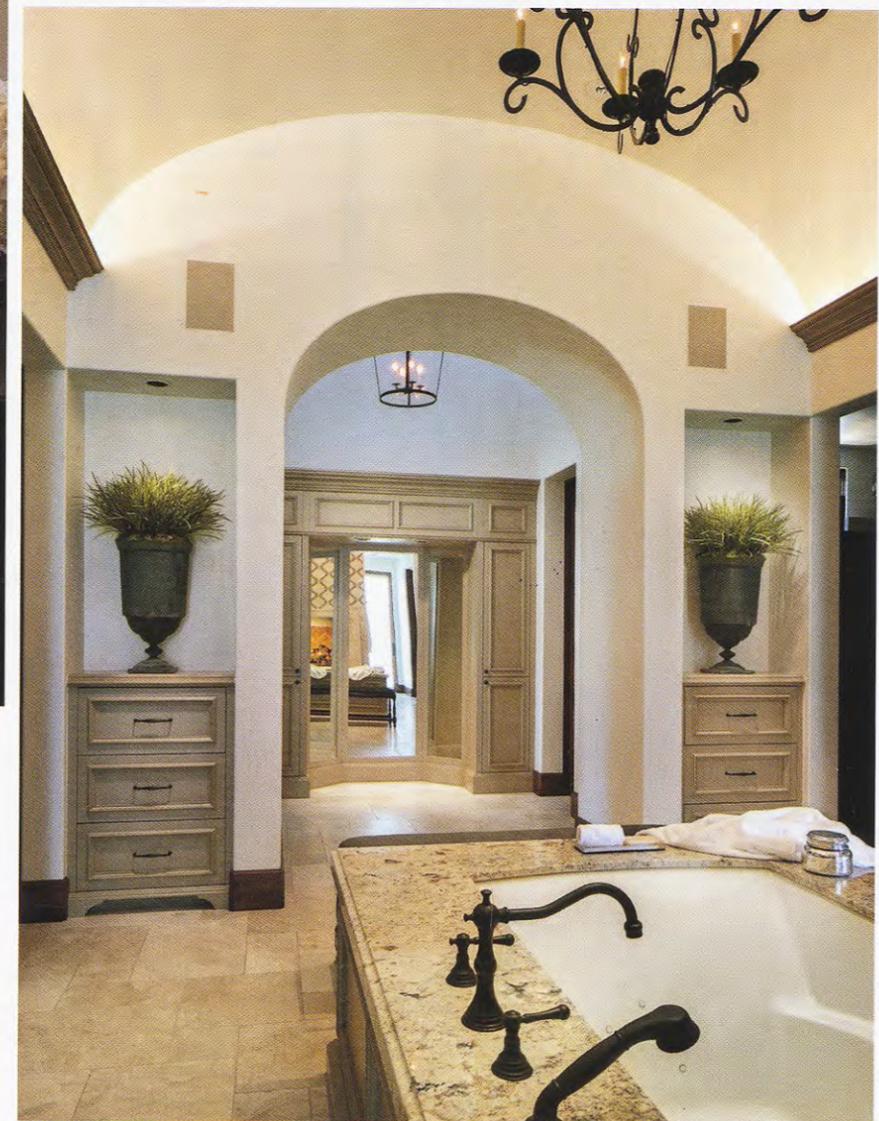
The home's exterior features a natural stone facade complemented by decorative iron accents, ornate metalwork, unique stone treatments and rustic wood beams that provide shade to outdoor spaces. Gardon wanted to bring the feel of the outside indoors by incorporating numerous windows in the design. "The stair tower has a grand window that brings daylight to all floors of the home, including the basement," he says. "I also designed the foyer in such a way that you can look down a level and look up a level, giving a three-story exposure to the outdoors."



**ABOVE AND TOP RIGHT:** The master bedroom offers the perfect balance of masculine and feminine details. A luxurious cocoa-colored suede bed with brocade pillows and padded bench anchors the space and complements the deep blue furnishings in the adjoining sunroom. A stone-faced double-sided fireplace separates the two areas without blocking the flow of natural light.

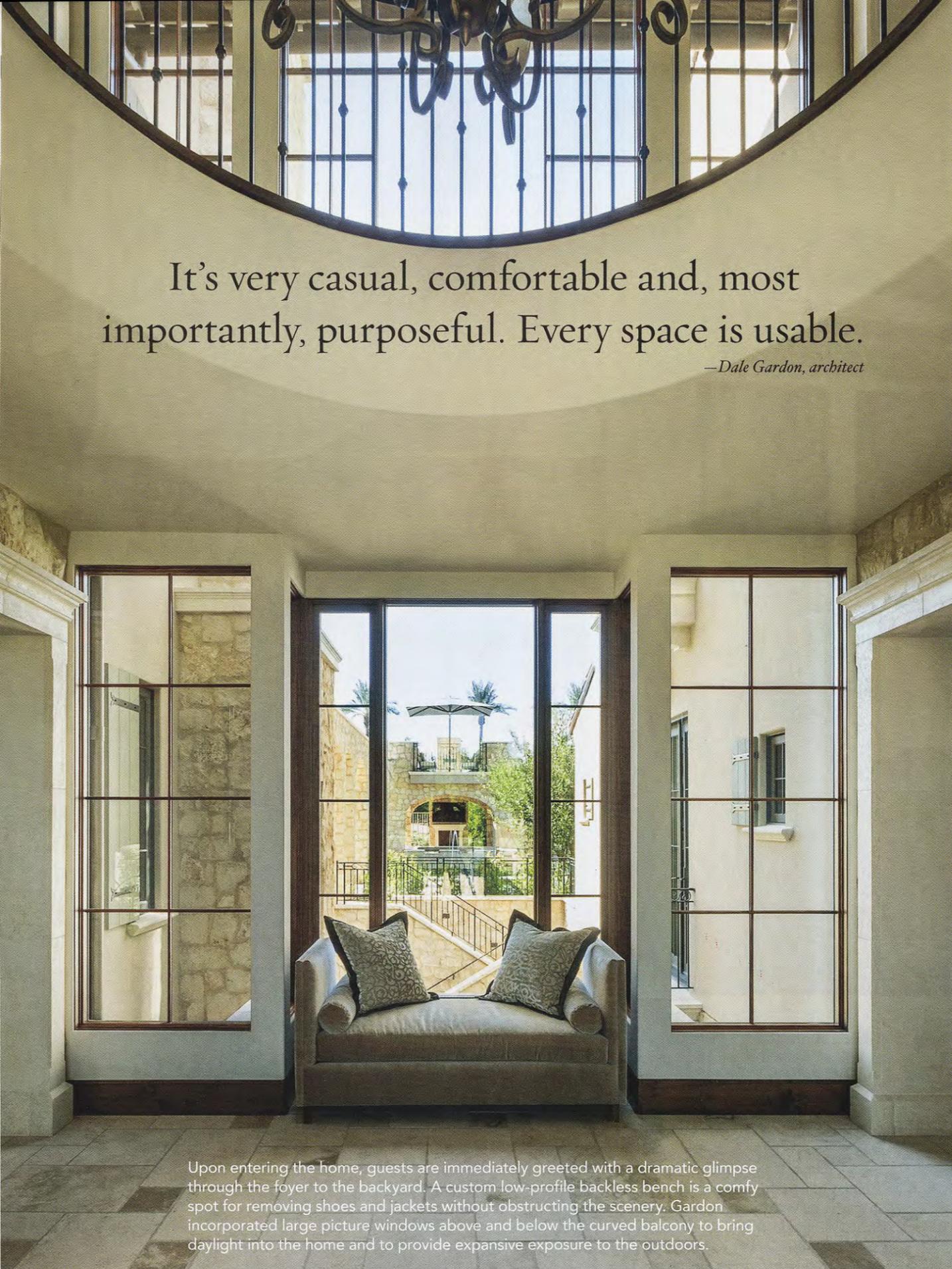


**BELOW:** Stone tile floors, muted colors and a deep Jacuzzi tub create a serene atmosphere in the master bath. A large archway opens to the dressing area, which features three-way mirrors and custom woodwork.



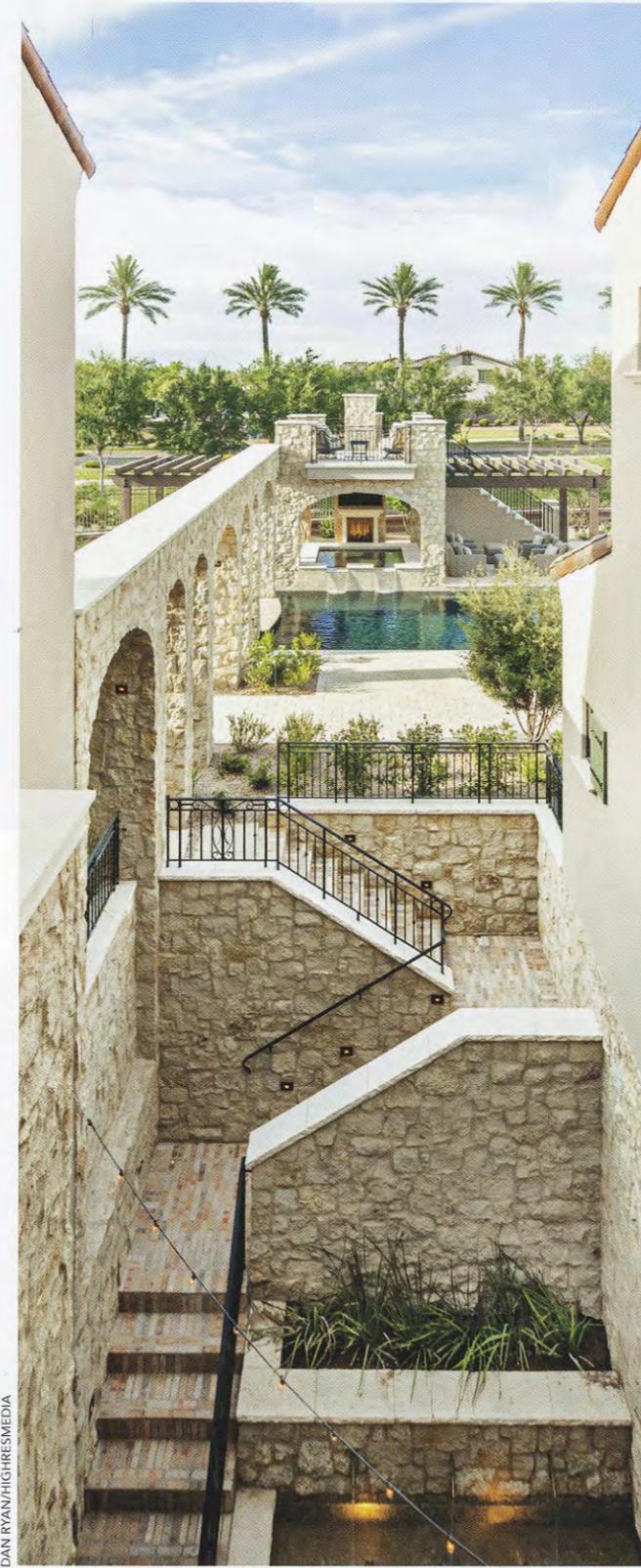
It's very casual, comfortable and, most importantly, purposeful. Every space is usable.

—Dale Gardon, architect



Upon entering the home, guests are immediately greeted with a dramatic glimpse through the foyer to the backyard. A custom low-profile backless bench is a comfy spot for removing shoes and jackets without obstructing the scenery. Gardon incorporated large picture windows above and below the curved balcony to bring daylight into the home and to provide expansive exposure to the outdoors.

DAN RYAN/HIGHRESMEDIA



**ABOVE:** A breathtaking view from the foyer spotlights the home and yard's multiple levels and detailed architecture.

**RIGHT:** Classic old-world elements abound in the foyer, including tall stone walls, a grand entry door with an arched transom window, an oversized door surround and a custom iron chandelier.

But what makes the home so uniquely special are the hidden spaces found throughout—a cozy courtyard adjoining the guest casita; a small dog run off the master suite; an intimate patio complete with two-person hot tub and outdoor shower off the master bath. The house is also peppered with private balconies and pockets of spaces perfect for a water feature or herb garden.

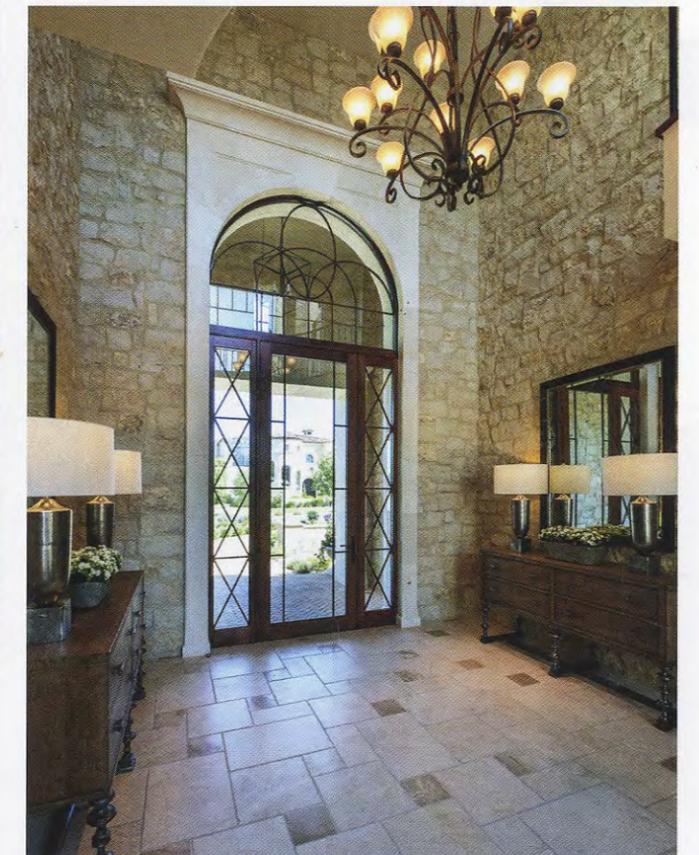
“It's details like these that give the home a resort-style atmosphere,” says Gardon.

Interior designer Claire Ownby carried that feel throughout the rest of the home by complementing Gardon's slightly modern take on Mediterranean architecture with a touch of regional influences from the American South, from where the couple hails.

When combining the different aesthetic elements, Ownby sought to create a look that stayed true to the style and grandeur of each aesthetic without being stuffy and unapproachable. So while the furnishings leaned more toward relaxed, Ownby used such details as pillows, draperies and accents to bring refinement and elegance to the space.

“The homeowners wanted a more polished design that wasn't overly ornate,” says Ownby. “To accomplish this, we focused on making the pillows more formal and tailoring the drapery panels, which feature more detailed fabrics.”

With children in the home, Ownby chose furnishings and materials that were durable, particularly in the kids' rooms and living areas. But the master suite, which was designed exclusively for the couple, exudes true luxury. “We used the words ‘masculine’ and ‘seductive’ when we put the fabric palette together,” she recalls. “The wife wanted something pretty,





The teenage boys' rooms are stylish and age-appropriate, with matching loft beds and storage steps and seating, while playing to their individual personalities and interests. Green and blue offers a sporty, collegiate vibe, while red and black gives a more urban, edgy feel. Designed to grow with the boys, the rooms feature wall treatments that can easily be removed and replaced. Arne Jacobsen-inspired hanging egg chairs and color-coordinated poufs add a sense of whimsy to the spaces.

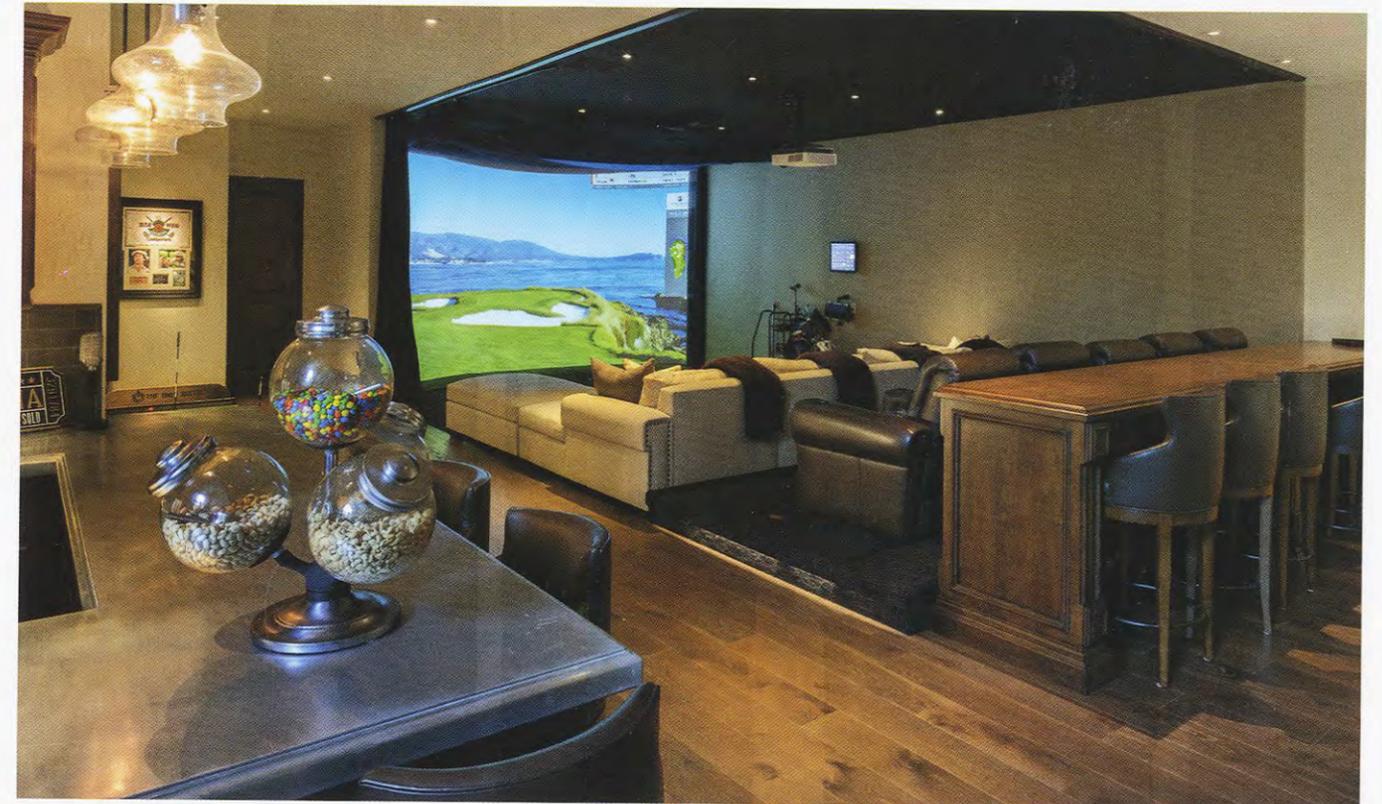


but she wanted to make sure she was respecting the husband in his space, as well.”

In the guest casita, which is tucked on the opposite end of the home, Ownby notes, “On the ceilings and floors, we used a lighter wood that is a little more rustic and slightly less refined than the flooring in the main house. The wife wanted the casita to not be detached aesthetically from the main house, but she also wanted it to feel like its own entity. The color palette was a common thread, but the overall look is more relaxed.”

When it comes to family fun, the options are endless. Inside, the basement features a golf simulator, home theater, wine room, exercise room and sauna. “It’s a destination all on its own,” says builder John Schultz.

Another shining example of resort-style living is the backyard, where an arched stone structure stands as a dramatic centerpiece. It separates a beach-entry kiddie pool from the dive pool, which is surrounded by distinct areas for entertaining, including an outdoor bar and kitchen, hot tub with adjoining fireplace and numerous play zones.

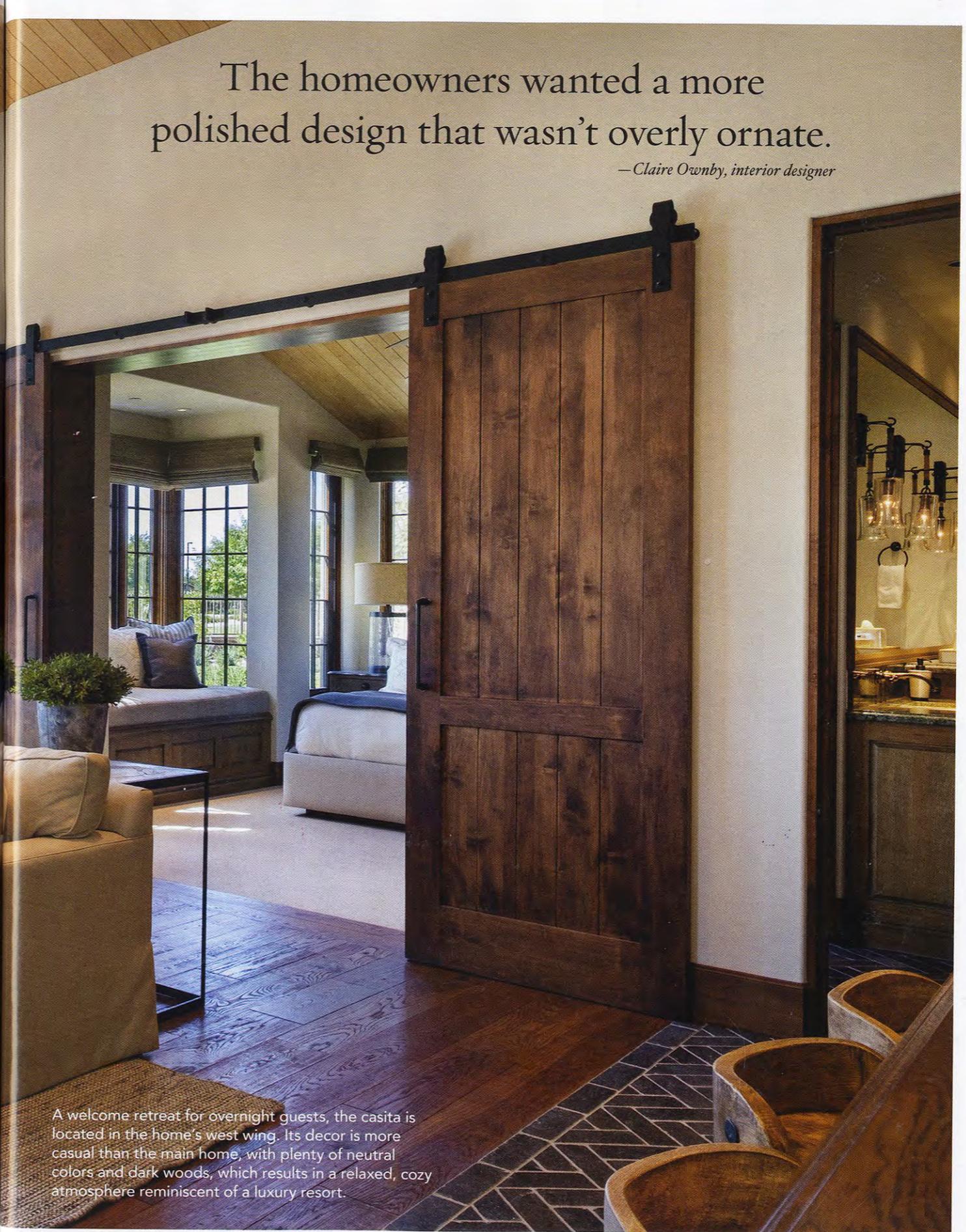


**ABOVE AND LEFT:** The spacious basement entertainment room is equipped for endless hours of family fun and games. A golf simulator helps the homeowners perfect their swings, while stadium-style seating welcomes guests to sit back, relax and enjoy the big game or latest blockbuster. A kitchen with bar holds plenty of snacks and drinks; additional bar seating ensures that hungry moviegoers won’t miss a single scene.



The homeowners wanted a more polished design that wasn't overly ornate.

—Claire Orwnby, interior designer



A welcome retreat for overnight guests, the casita is located in the home's west wing. Its decor is more casual than the main home, with plenty of neutral colors and dark woods, which results in a relaxed, cozy atmosphere reminiscent of a luxury resort.

A destination unto itself, the sprawling backyard exemplifies outdoor entertainment at its finest. At the centerpiece is a resort-style pool with diving board, water features and an arched stone bridge, surrounded by play lawns and a putting green. Lush plantings and trees add softness to the space.



With so many areas making up the backyard, it's the architecture that ties them all together. "It was important to highlight the architecture of the home into the design in order to project a feeling and sense of place," says landscape designer Jeff Berghoff.

For the couple, there is one very special space in the backyard: a unique lookout tower complete with seating area and fireplace. "When you get up 12 feet in the air it's an amazing perspective," Gardon says. "You get a stunning panoramic view of sunrises and sunsets, and the beauty that's all around. It's a vantage point not everyone gets."

Schultz adds, "The home is a family's dream come true when it comes to outdoor living and recreation." For its owners, the design and amenities make this house the ultimate family escape—a place where spending time together feels easy and relaxed. ■

**RIGHT:** Adding impact and drama to the backyard, an ornamental stone wall reminiscent of an ancient European arcade links the main house to the view/spa pavilion and carries the Mediterranean villa style throughout the property. "It creates a division and breaks down the large expanse of yard into more intimate rooms," says Gardon of the architectural feature.

**BELOW:** Nestled beneath a second-floor view patio, the large spa comfortably fits 10. After a relaxing soak, guests can cuddle up on an oversized swinging bed.

**BELOW RIGHT:** A stone bridge spans the pool, offering easy access from the house to the spa pavilion and putting green and bringing a sense of old-world romance to the yard.

*See Sources.*

