



Newport's favorite Frenchie strikes a pose amid the shelves at her namesake Charlie & Me dog boutique at Lido Marina Village.

FLYING HIGH

This Paradise Valley home has taken off.

By David M. Brown

Photography by Michael Baxter/Baxter Imaging

Incorporating wingspan shapes of a stealth fighter ready for take-off, a 15,353-square-foot hillside contemporary was created for a husband and wife duo, the former of which is an airline CEO and aviation aficionado.

On 13-plus acres along the northeast ridge of Mummy Mountain, the custom estate includes four bedrooms, five bathrooms, a guest suite and an open-floor eight-car garage topped by a core slab roof—rated to hold a fire truck—flexing as a parking area for visitors.

Providing mountainside views in all directions, the home is the highest-elevation address on the 2,264-foot-high mountain. The landmark was originally called Windy Gulch and Horseshoe Mountain but renamed by Charles Mieg, a miner and businessman who purchased most of the now highly prized hillside in the 1940s for

just \$12,000. He noted that the topography resembled a supine Egyptian mummy and made the new name live as a lucrative real estate descriptor.

“The owners knew what kind of style they wanted and came to us,” says Scottsdale architect Mark Candelaria, whose firm, Candelaria Design (candelariadesign.com), assumed the project in 2007 from another architect. “The entire design and build team was assembled early on, so it was a great collaboration with the owners, architect, interior designer and builder.”

For the challenging hard-granite excavation and construction of this complicated home, hillside expert, the couple hired John Schultz, founder of Scottsdale-based Schultz Development (schultzdevelopment.org), and Holly Ogden of the celebrated design firm



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–MARK CANDELARIA, ARCHITECT,
CANDELARIA DESIGN »

Clockwise from left: Nima’s bachelor pad with floor-to-ceiling windows; Soheil with his son Shayan and daughter Sophia in the living room of the restored historic home; the grandparents’ master penthouse bedroom.



Wiseman and Gale (wisemanandgale.com).

“It is very harmonious with the mountain,” says Candelaria, “and the design team used the contemporary style to capture every view around them.”

Because it is so artistically nestled into the mountain, the owners not only have views out to the Valley but also back up to the top of Mummy Mountain, says Schultz, who notes that to preserve these the owners purchased the adjacent lot. “Many hillside homes capture the views in the distance. This home appreciates the mountain, too.”

The mountain is composed for the most part of Precambrian granite. “We call it blue granite; it’s very hard, and we had a lot of extraction,” says Schultz, a Long Island, New York, native who has construction and business degrees from ASU. For the excavation, his crew trucked in a mining drill rig, then bored holes of about 15 feet into the hillside in Swiss cheese fashion to loosen the rock for removal.

The homeowners requested comfortable, contemporary space consistent with the exterior spirit. To this end, Candelaria designed a bar resembling a cockpit. And, from years of travels for his airline career, the owners have built a collection of artifacts and art, including antique Chinese robes, which are displayed throughout their home.

To finish the project, Candelaria worked with the owners in commissioning a large bronze sculpture for the entry plaza that would pair with an added water feature and complement the contemporary architecture of the home and its aviation theme.

Inspired by sculptures Candelaria has seen on his travels to Santa Fe and Aspen, he found the work of noted sculptor, Guy Dill (guydill.com), who has shown at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Museum of Modern Art and the Stedelijk Museum. Dill crafted “Paradise,” which suggests global aircraft routes. And “paradise” the home is. “Spatially, the whole back of the house highlights the view, the view, the view,” Ogden says. “It’s magical to see the entire Valley, as the storms roll in.” ■

