

THE LIFE

HYPNOTIC

A NEW SCOTTSDALE HOME HAS MESMERIZING VIEWS OF DESERT, FAIRWAYS, MOUNTAINS AND A BOBCAT OR TWO.

*By David M. Brown
Photography by Michael Duerinckx,
INCKX Photography*

Julie and Bob Clark came Arizona to live near family. They found the golf life too. “We were ready to retire in Rancho Santa Fe [Calif.],” recalls Bob, “but Julie said, ‘Can’t we be by the grandchildren?’ So, a few years ago, we discovered the golfer’s paradise called Desert Mountain in North Scottsdale, which is only 30 minutes from our four grandkids.”

The New Jersey natives sited their 5,700-square-foot home on an 1 ½-acre ridge of lush natural desert above the challenging 10th hole at the community’s Chiricahua golf course. Their desert contemporary-style home with an open floor plan is the vision of Phoenix architectural designer Bryan Rains and was built by The Phil Nichols Company, Scottsdale. Two other Scottsdale firms, led respectively by Angelica Henry and Claire Ownby, provided different elements of the cohesive interior design.

The two-level custom home has a three-car garage and four en suite bedrooms, including two in the second-floor guest quarters, which are decorated with mementos of the Clarks’ travels. Throughout, expansive window walls showcase the surrounding Sonoran Desert. Bobcats, coyotes,



A dramatic sandstone fireplace frames views of the mountain and golf course. Art is by Scottsdale's Charles Pabst.



Saguaros provide a vertical counterpoint to the horizontal massing of the Southwest contemporary home set on a ridge.

From top: A custom sofa and inviting seating anchor the comfortable great room, adjacent to both the patio and the glass-walled wine cabinet; flamed and brushed limestone, leathered granite and walnut are some of the luxe materials used in the master bath, where vertical windows frame fairway vignettes.

jack rabbits and mule deer regularly peek in to see what the Clarks are doing. Each window frames a desert or golf course vignette—a collaborative effort of Rains, Nichols and the owners to ensure that the home robustly celebrates the world’s most ecologically diverse desert.

“Luckily, the panoramic views from the lot allowed us to maximize the possibilities and provide each window with expansive vistas or golf course landscapes,” explains Rains. “Due to its translucent nature, this residence wants to pull the surrounding area into the house and blur the lines of what is indoor and outdoor living.” Toward the south, corner window walls slide open in the great room to connect it to the patio and infinity-edge pool, which reflects views of Lone Mountain in the distance. The master bedroom and its patio have fairway views, while other windows focus views on local landmarks.

The construction team’s major challenge was ensuring that these specialized windows and doors were installed correctly. “Traditional-style homes simply do not have the same exacting tolerances and finishing details as contemporary homes,” Nichols explains, “so these modern homes require more preplanning and supervision at the execution of the work.” Construction details included aligning the 24-by-24-inch interior porcelain floor tiles with the same-size sandstone tiles on the walls of the foyer and, in the great room, above the see-through fireplace



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—BRYAN RAINS, ARCHITECT



The glass-topped custom table adds a pop of aqua blue and a textural contrast to the kitchen's wood and marble.



A multicolored rug adds a joyful note to the dining room, which has a custom eucalyptus dining table and a walnut credenza.

DESIGN DETAILS

TYPE
Single-family home

LOCATION
Desert Mountain, Scottsdale

ARCHITECTURE
Bryan Rains, Rains Design Inc.
rainsdesign.com

BUILDER
Phil Nichols, The Phil Nichols Company Inc.
thephilnicholscompany.com

INTERIOR DESIGN
Angelica Henry, Angelica Henry Design
angelicahenrydesign.com
Claire Ownby, Ownby Design
ownbydesign.com

RESOURCES

ARTISTICAL ALLOYS & DESIGN LLC
Kitchen and barbecue hoods,
and railings
artisticalloys.com

DAVID E. ADLER FINE RUGS
Rugs
davideadler.com

DISTINCTIVE CUSTOM CABINETRY
Interior millwork, custom dining tabletop
distinctivecc.com

FEATHERS FINE CUSTOM FURNISHINGS
Custom chairs, stools, headboard
feathersdesign.com

HERITAGE VINE CUSTOM WINE CELLARS
Glass-enclosed wine cellar
heritagevine.com

MELTDOWN GLASS
Custom kiln-fired table top
meltdownglass.com

PREMIERE WOOD FLOORS
Hardwood flooring
premierewoodfloors.com

SPECIALTY FIREPLACES
Great room fireplace and fire pit
specialtyfireplaces.com

SR DROST CUSTOM FURNITURE
Custom sofas, swivel lounge chairs,
upholstered cocktail table, bar-height
table base
drostfurniture.com

TOWN STUDIO
Lighting fixtures
townstudio.com

with its dramatic floating chimney. The porcelain tiles continue out on the same alignment to the pool area.

While Henry and Ownby didn't work together, everything they did works together. Ownby programmed elements such as the warm neutral palette the Clarks requested to highlight built-ins such as the glass-enclosed wine cellar in the dining room. She also helped design the various ceiling soffits, fireplace-wall designs and cabinetry, and specified such elements as plumbing fixtures and countertops.

As part of her scope, Henry continued Ownby's simple approach, adding textures and color, lighting fixtures, carpets and custom furnishings, such as the great-room sofa and the glass-topped kitchen table. Henry also helped select artworks, including three contrasting paintings by Scottsdale's Charles Pabst and his children, Michael Pabst and Cara Pabst Moran.

"The furnishings and artwork kept an open feel and create a great sense of continuity with the architectural details and built-ins," says Henry, who took a cue from the home's materials and integrated them into the furniture—such as using the same onyx found in the bar top for the tops of two tables across from it.

The home's interior design, location, colorful artworks and desert-embracing architecture coalesce as a showpiece of contemporary Southwest living. "The Clark home," says Rains, "is a harmony of site and structure." ■