



The Herbergers' Points of View

Their sky-island estate overlooking downtown Scottsdale inspires one of Arizona's premier families moment to moment, memory to memory.

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In the west wing living room, matching Barbara Barry chests flank the custom designed fireplace. Carpet patterns repeat in the glass firescreen, and above the chests are 'eglomise' (back-painted mirror) panels by Diane Rogers. The lamps are antique bronze blackamoors. The sofa is covered in custom chenille, and a wood shell sculpture sits on the pop-up and swivel TV cabinet.

One cohesive home synthesized from three condominium units, the 8,000-plus square-foot Scottsdale Waterfront residence is the art in progress of Judd and Billie Jo Herberger, known to Valleyites for decades of community spirit and philanthropy.

Their space celebrates the couple's diverse passions: for Arizona, travel, for the arts and beauty.

"We enjoy every room and every space in all their special delights," says Billie Jo, born and surfer/beach-raised in Southern California. "Tonight, and every night, the fabulous lights are amazing. I run from one space to the next to be sure not to miss anything."



Guests in the formal dining room enjoy the comfort of cut-velvet chairs. Above, the silk shades, as well as the ceiling and border, have been hand painted by Diane Rogers. A painting by Daniela Ovtcharov includes a whimsical depiction of Judd unicycling on a tightrope.

“Since I was a child, I watched every sunset and I still watch every sunset reflecting on the Arizona Canal and on all the mountains. Judd and I live in every space of our little palace in the sky throughout the whole day. We share this with our family, friends and with our wonderful community,” she says.

“We dine and breakfast on every terrace and dining room. No part of our house is ever left out. Each space has an energy, and every space is embraced in our love of life and living here.”

The couple’s Los Angeles-based interior designer, Bonnie Sachs, ASID, helped, and continues to unite the three individual units into one.

They purchased the original home as new about seven years ago. Here there are three sitting areas and a piano in the expanded living room, her office, a guest room, the master bedroom suite, and the dining room, with a ceiling evocative of the Hearst Castle in San Simeon, California. This has been hand painted by Diane Rogers, a Phoenix-area decorative artist who created all of the home’s extraordinary custom finishes such as the hand-embellished light shades, also in the dining room.

After living in the first unit for just more than a year, they acquired an adjacent one. Not only were they enjoying the building, its luxury view and luxurious amenities, such as the rooftop pool and a first-floor club room, but they had found renaissance downtown Scottsdale not only convenient but always fresh with restaurants, boutiques and events. “We don’t even get into the car on the weekends, unless we have an event elsewhere in the Valley,” she says.



Details of the spectacular jewel room are reflected in the antique glass ceiling panels, punctuated by finials with hanging semi-precious stones. The flooring is a mosaic from Ann Sacks tile. The desk carries the Asian details, including the Chinese lantern and silk dragon fabric on the chairs. The leopard-inspired chair accents the room. A Daniela Ovtcharov painting includes Billie Jo as one of the three women depicted: 'It was a surprise!' she says.



The main entrance of the home is defined by deep-fuchsia Venetian plaster walls and the Italian console with black granite top. The custom area rug repeats motifs used throughout the home to connect the different parts of the home. The golden ceiling is Maya Romanoff wall covering.





The ceiling in the formal dining room is finished in gold tea paper, and a Phillip Curtis hangs above the fireplace. The elegant custom upholstery is complemented by silk damask, tapestry and velvet. Also custom, the rug is a cut pile and loop vine pattern borrowing inspiration from the fabrics.





For the most recently added bar/lounge area, an existing kitchen was removed, including a wall between a bedroom and bath. At the wrap-around bar, a B.J. Katz cast glass bar top rises above the terra cotta onyx counter. Iridescent mosaic backsplash tile pick up the colors of the lighting and lounge area, and custom bar chandeliers, and ceiling beams, trapping bamboo grasscloth wallcovering, complete the space.



The sectional in the bar/lounge area is modular and can be re-arranged to suit the day's requirements. The leather-covered ottoman has removable trays for serving. The sitting niche features McGuire chairs and a bone chest for drinks by the fire. The direction of the alder beams leads to the tile fireplace surround, and the firescreen repeats the design motif used throughout. Laser-cut alder panels disguise an audio-visual closet, laundry room and powder room. And, anchored on the wall is a wood carving of an outrigger, affirming the oceanic theme of the room.

The second phase allowed them to expand the master bath suite from space acquired from the added unit to include the lady's boudoir and much-needed closet space and a coffered-ceiling library office for Judd. In addition, the new space provided area for an intimate dining table and her resplendent jewelry-creating room with Doric columns, marble floor and mirrored ceiling.

"The living area provides an unsurpassed view of Scottsdale and accesses the patio where many meals are taken," Sachs says.

About two years ago, the Herbergers acquired the other adjacent unit, formerly a rental. After gutting it, they finished it in Pacific Island/Asian style. This third phase contains a master guest suite, a lounging area where small meetings are held and a bar, incorporating details such as an onyx counter and a custom cast-glass bar made by well-known glassworker, B.J. Katz of Meltdown Glass, Tempe.

Above the glasswork are three custom tree-shaped chandeliers with individual leaves echoing the colors of the room. Each of these multi-colored leaves was painstakingly placed by hand after uncrating.

As with the first two expansions, this one allowed for repurposing redundant spaces and adding new ones. Here, the original living room, bedroom and bathroom have become one large space with sitting areas defined by columns with copper palm trees tops created by Phoenix artist Joseph Ward.

Asian-inspired circles and Suzani patterns repeat on the fabrics and carpet. Beyond is the guest suite with fern-forested walls and jungle bird patterns on the fabrics. Billie Jo commissioned the painting of the tall woman by Scottsdale artist, Debra Jones.





On the opposite side of the bar/lounge, the sitting/conference area provides casual space for business meetings. All walls were removed from the former second bedroom/bath area to create a loftlike open space to better suit the flow of the room. The chairs swivel to address each other or the adjacent sectional sofa, all on a leopard-inspired carpet. Paradise Valley artist Patsy Lowry did the 'Visiting Spirits,' painting.



“The latest expansion is less formal with a casual atmosphere — more ‘put your feet up’ — and offers 270-degree views of Scottsdale and beyond,” Sachs says. How far? The Herbergers often joke, responding: “All the way to Sedona, well, at least to Pinnacle Peak and beyond.”

As the home expanded, the new spaces were planned so that they would be used. Sachs presented layouts, furniture, cabinet plans and fabrics as they progressed, with the Herbergers involved in how each component would work with their lifestyle and comfort. “Judd helped pick out every piece of fabric,” she says. “Their lively spirits inspired each inch of their home.”

Once, on a cruise, Judd noted a beach painting that would work well in a new bath. He asked the artist to accentuate the seaside, and the work hangs now, intensifying their memory of the visit.

Ideas and technology have been added, such as the “smart house” tablet that Billie Jo handles deftly like a techie, but the artworks are also moved space to space as overall concepts shift.

So, too, finishes change with the house and the times. Venetian plaster finishes were popular seven years ago, Sachs explains, but the newest walls in the third expansion showcase laser-cut panels in an Asian motif.

And, color threads throughout have moved from an original emphasis on fuchsia and turquoise to, most recently, orange and violet, celebrating their beloved Southwest sunsets.

An open kitchen is adjacent to the terrace with a view across the Arizona Canal. The glass cabinets' oval motif was used throughout this part of the home. The Italian chandelier comprises individual crystal beads handpicked for color — a modern take on the more traditional Venetian glass chandeliers in this area.





Billie Jo's love of the exotic, based on their travels — Asian, Middle Eastern, Turkish and European — combine with watercolors and oils in diverse styles by Arizona artists including the great minimalist, Phillip Curtis, Merrill Mahaffey, Patsy Lowry, John Farnsworth, Deb Jones, Robert Miley and John Waddell, whose fluid bronze sculptures dance on the Herberger Theater Center plaza in downtown Phoenix.

Judd's parents, who had department stores, moved from Minnesota in the mid '40s following the war. They settled first at Cattle Track, the famous artists' compound that still thrives in Scottsdale. They lived in a home built by George Ellis, whose daughter, Janie, still lives on the property, through which the mail was once carried by horseback and cattle herded. Here, Judd's parents helped Phillip Curtis (1907-2000) start out as an artist.

Today, Judd looks out over the Soleri Bridge, a final project by Paradise Valley's esteemed architect, Paolo Soleri (1919-2013). "When it was being built, I would take pictures of the bridge in construction and send them to Paolo, always from the same spot, so that he could monitor the progress," Judd says. "Just beyond, our view of the McDowells is the same one my parents and I had when we first moved to the Valley almost 70 years ago."

"We love all the colors, textures, the art, beauty and creative energy that we are surrounded with every day," Billie Jo says. "This is what we share, and this is what we love." 