

SAND CASTLE

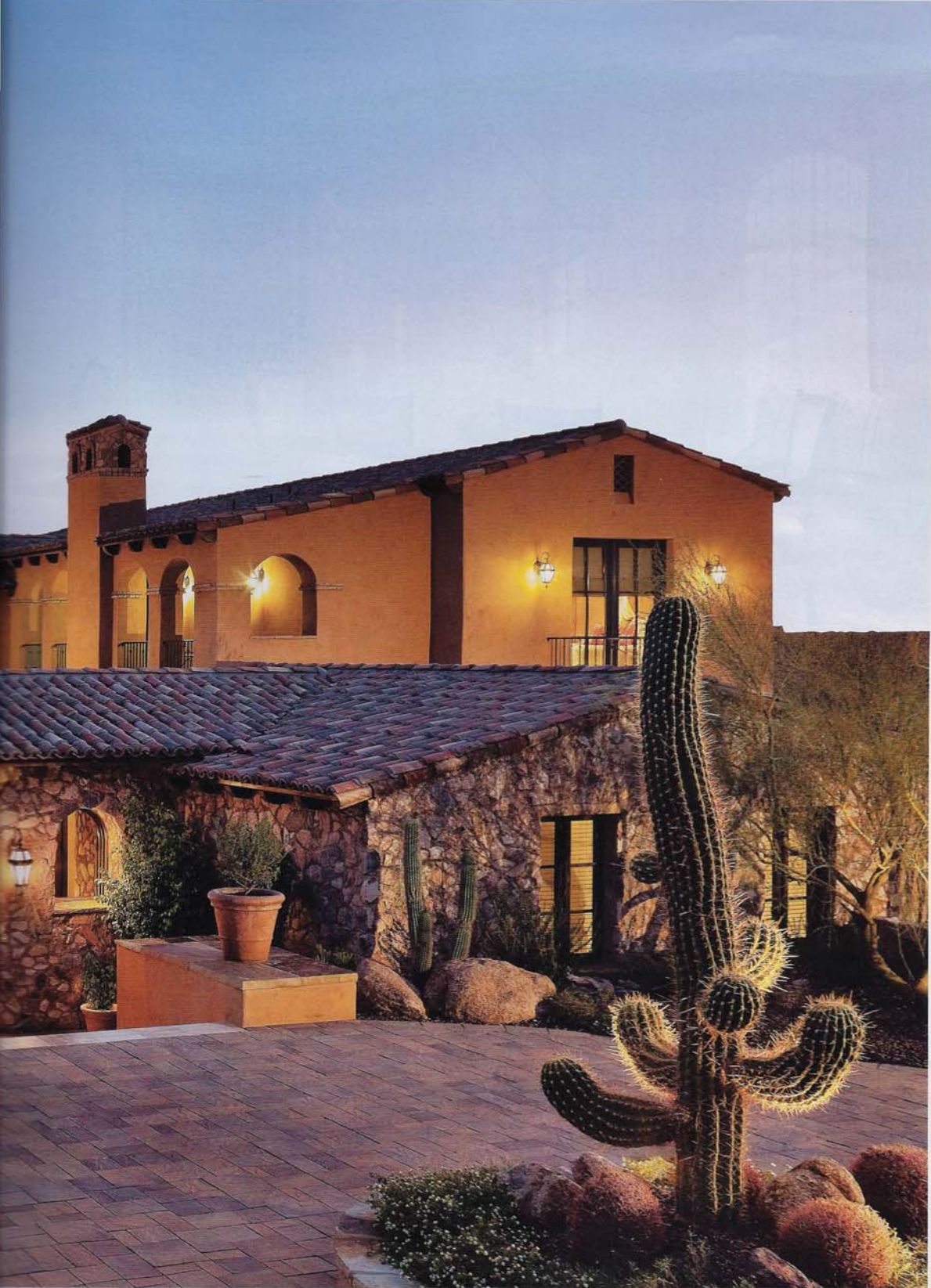
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PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF ZARUBA

YOU MAY NOT FIND A SEASIDE PROPERTY HIDING IN THE ARIZONA DESERT, BUT THIS MEDITERRANEAN-STYLE RESIDENCE IN NORTHERN SCOTTSDALE POSSESSES ALL THE CHARM OF A EUROPEAN VILLA. "You can't replicate an old home sitting on the Mediterranean overlooking the ocean," admits home designer Scott Giesen, principal of Giesen Design Studio LLC, in Phoenix, "but you can

INTERIOR DESIGN Caroline DeCesare, ASID, DeCesare Design Group
ARCHITECTURE Scott Giesen, Giesen Design Studio LLC
HOME BUILDER Dale Lesperance, Platinum Homes
BEDROOMS 5 BATHROOMS 9 SQUARE FEET 7,200







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convey the feel." And that he did: a medley of textures and rustic finishes, the 7,200-square-foot home exudes age beyond its years.

Situating the house posed an initial challenge for Giesen, as it is located on a steep grade in a neighborhood surrounded by other homes. "I developed private areas hidden from the public view," he observes. "We worked hard to create spaces so that neighbors would never seem near." For example, both an open and an enclosed second-story patio offer unobstructed, panoramic views of the Phoenix city lights. Each of the home's four sections boasts its own distinct character. "The great thing about Italian houses is that they often look like they've been built on over time," explains Giesen. "It's actually a lot of styles brought together." In less capable hands, such an approach might have resulted in

BRILLIANT BREAKFAST

In the breakfast nook, a Paul Ferrante wrought-iron chandelier hovers over a reclaimed-wood kitchen table and French farm chairs. Along the banquette, embroidered sheers diffuse the intense desert lighting.



RAISING THE BARS

A French antique limestone fireplace and mirror set the elegant European tone in the formal living room. Velvet sofas, an antique wool Oushak rug and a stunning Dennis & Leen chandelier complete the picture.



STYLE SELECTION

From the Casa collection, this three-bulb chandelier is shown in an Olde Black finish with antique scavo glass. 40130L, price available upon request; hinkleylighting.com

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edge of structures, lacking a unity of purpose. Instead, one section
ents the next, each acting as separate entities married to each
form and style. Arches function as a unifying motif throughout
exterior and interior spaces, and cobblestones were culled locally
the structure to its hilly environs. "The home had to settle into
erty," Giesen says.

structures surround a central courtyard, an effect recalling the
many older European farms. With its imported travertine
romantic lighting, inviting fireplaces and wrought-iron accents,
yard provides a cozy and private haven for the homeowners. A
3,000-pound wishing well carved out of a single piece of stone
the whimsy to the outdoor living area.





FINISH LINES

A subtle medley of finishes defines the tonal kitchen. The deep hue of Cambrian black granite offsets the brightness of a molded-plaster hood surround and the softer tones of glazed alder-wood cabinetry.



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Rugged exterior stonework, featuring a thick sandy grout, imparts much rustic charm. "We did a lot of testing and experimenting to come up with the final product," says construction manager Dale Lesperance, of Platinum Homes in Scottsdale. "It makes the home look like something that rose up out of the desert." He also points out that the unobtrusive color of the exterior stucco required a three-part, three-color process resulting in a custom blend. A pair of ramadas flanks the pool in the back: one consists of stucco with stone accents and the other is stone with stucco accents. "Each element exists as a whole," adds Lesperance.

The home's airy, inviting interior reflects the exterior's subtle grace. "We wanted to keep it light," explains interior designer Caroline DeCesare, ASID, who did the project for Vallone Design, Inc., and who now owns DeCesare Design Group in Mesa. "The owners wanted the house to be designed in a rural Mediterranean style," she recalls, "but they wanted it

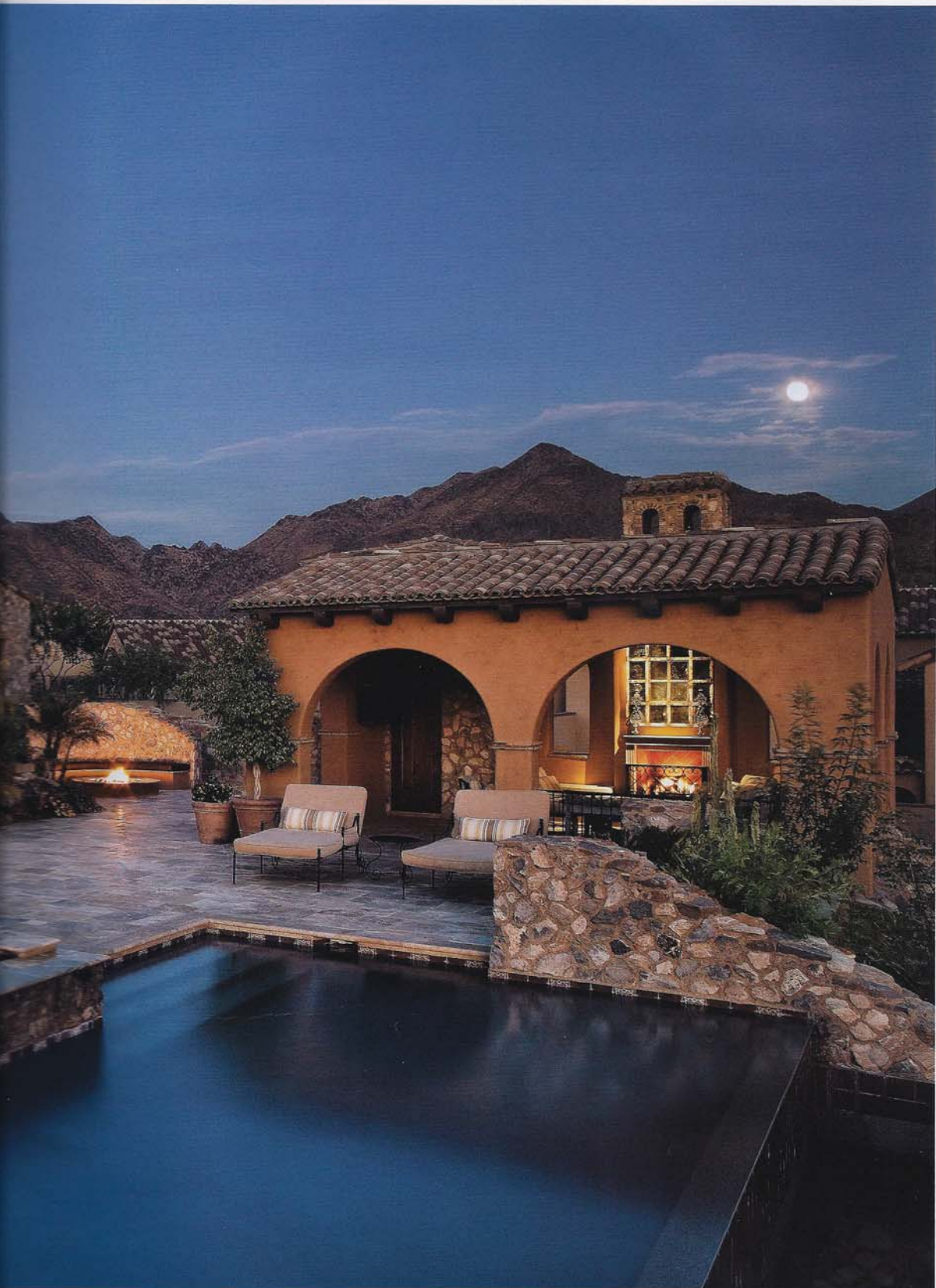


HOLDING COURT

Textures abound in the inviting courtyard, where rugged cobblestones complement warm stucco and earthy travertine tiles. Arches serve as a unifying motif throughout the outdoor living area.



WILDLIGHT SERENADE
Ambient lighting, arches and tile
enhance the Mediterranean feel.
The steeply graded backyard. Travertine
and locally culled stones surround the
infinity-edge pool.





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to be functional." In designing the interior spaces, DeCesare says she strove for authenticity with the use of natural materials: "It's European but on a more informal level."

Old World touches include reclaimed-wood tables, antique French limestone fireplaces, velvet furniture and botanical prints. Linen curtains and printed sheers on the windows brighten the home, yet diffuse the strong desert light. "There's no darkness or heavy drapery," notes DeCesare. Venetian plaster walls are offset by hand-hewn and stained alder-wood ceiling beams. Belgian white oak floors throughout the house bring another bright country element to the interior space. "They have a certain patina and add their own luster," DeCesare adds. Giesen agrees: "It's all very subtle and comfortable. It's a place you can live in and sit and enjoy the space. It's not a museum." **L**

STYLE SELECTION

This bathtub, made with a shiny copper finish, adds an antique feel to tranquil spa-like settings. *Clothilde Copper Freestanding Oval Bathtub*, \$40,705; waterworks.com





TUB COUTURE

A brilliant oval copper tub from Waterworks serves as the focal point in the master bath. An Oushak rug repeats the tub's bronze tones, and warm Venetian plaster walls bring an Italianate element to the space.