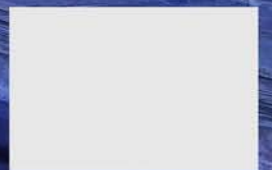


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Dream Homes





Garden of Earthly Delights

A mountainside setting provides seclusion, surprise and space for entertaining

Like a woodland garden, this picturesque waterscape on the side of Mummy Mountain entices with its cool, serene setting. Despite rocky conditions, site-appropriate plants, trees and bushes flourish, providing character and a sense of place.

Text by Judy Wade • Photography by Louis Cantillo



When privacy is essential and solitude a requirement, the recipe for success is almost guaranteed if the site is on a natural mountainside pad. Folded into the slopes of Mummy Mountain in Paradise Valley, the garden of Carole and Rich Kraemer fulfills all requirements and complements the rustic Tuscan flavor of their hillside home.

The grounds are more an extension of the residence than a separate garden. “It was very important that we have a private space that we could enjoy,” says Carole. “The best thing about this area is that when we’re sitting out here, as we often do, we can’t see any other buildings. So we could be in the middle of nowhere. And that is the greatest appeal this area has for us.”

Inspired by extensive travels throughout Europe, Carole worked with landscape architect Greg Trutza to create a sense of wandering through the grounds of a country villa. Trutza explains, “We wanted the unexpected to delight and engage the senses. So, I laid out

the hardscape in an exploratory and unpredictable manner.”

More than four years of maturity give the impression that the garden has been there for decades. Trutza, owner of New Directions in Landscape Architecture Inc., had the advantage of accessing the back yard before the home was constructed. “From the earliest stages of design the Kraemers had me involved to ensure the landscape had a pivotal role in the layout and flow of the home,” he explains. However, it did not eliminate major challenges.

Because the home is situated on several acres on Mummy Mountain, cutting into the mountain’s slope was unavoidable. This meant utilizing the face of the cut as a design element, Trutza explains. The scarred rock was treated with an oxidizing solution to blend in with the color of rocks higher on the side of the mountain.

Hillside regulations dictated that only a small section of the Kraemers’ property be developed, and it had

This page: Weathered doors off the driveway lead to a path at the back of the house. Along the way, a pergola offers respite from the sun. **Opposite:** Multiple terraces at the home’s entrance replicate the topography of the hillside property. A round water feature and touches of color from desert perennials balance the extensive stonework.



to be planted with a restricted xeriscape palette. So Trutza blended new plantings with the picturesque surroundings to create a feeling that the home embraces the mountain.

Among the special design elements is La ha Negra cantera, a volcanic tuft mined in mainland Mexico. The stone in the Kraemer garden has been recycled from old sidewalks south of the border. Each stone has welcomed the footfalls of generations past, each has a story to tell. A small sprinkle of blue paint verifies one stone's history as part of a previous home. Another, with tiny fossils delicately outlined on its surface, reaches into ancient history.

The ramada, or pavilion area, was created with entertaining as well as family enjoyment in mind. Comfortable outdoor furniture invites relaxation over a morning cup of coffee or an evening cocktail. Doors hide a large television.

Special to Carole is a small cutting garden that she

treasures during the winter months. She has planted it with snapdragons, gerber and Shasta daisies, and roses, from which she creates arrangements for indoors. Originally she thought about planting vegetables but discovered that the space doesn't get appropriate sunlight in winter.

The pool also is dear to Carole's heart. Besides delighting in its aesthetics, she uses it for water aerobics. Its dark-color bottom not only absorbs solar heat to keep it warm, but it promotes a natural look.

For someone undertaking a similar project, Carole's advice is to do extensive research and select a reputable designer. Trutza says a detailed master plan is essential to ensure that all elements integrate into a cohesive vision.

When viewing the Kraemer garden, there is little doubt that this wise counsel has assured a place of timeless enjoyment for decades to come. 🌿

See Resource Guide.



This page: Amenities in the ramada include durable outdoor furnishings, a fireplace and an outdoor kitchen. **Opposite:** Stone is used throughout the landscape. Here, steppingstones provide a shortcut over the water to the ramada. The walkway also serves to separate the swimming pool from the spa.