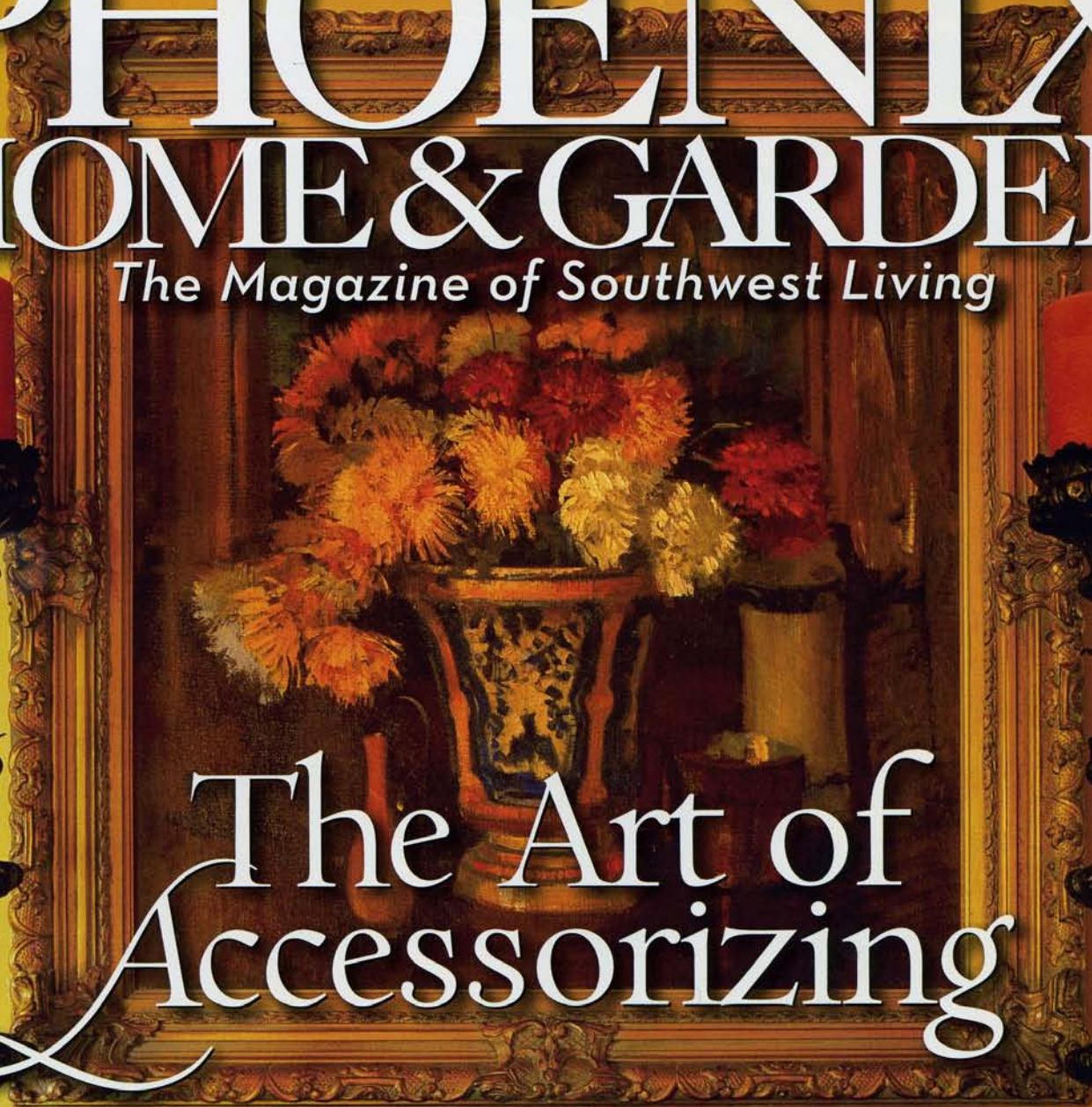


PHOENIX HOME & GARDEN

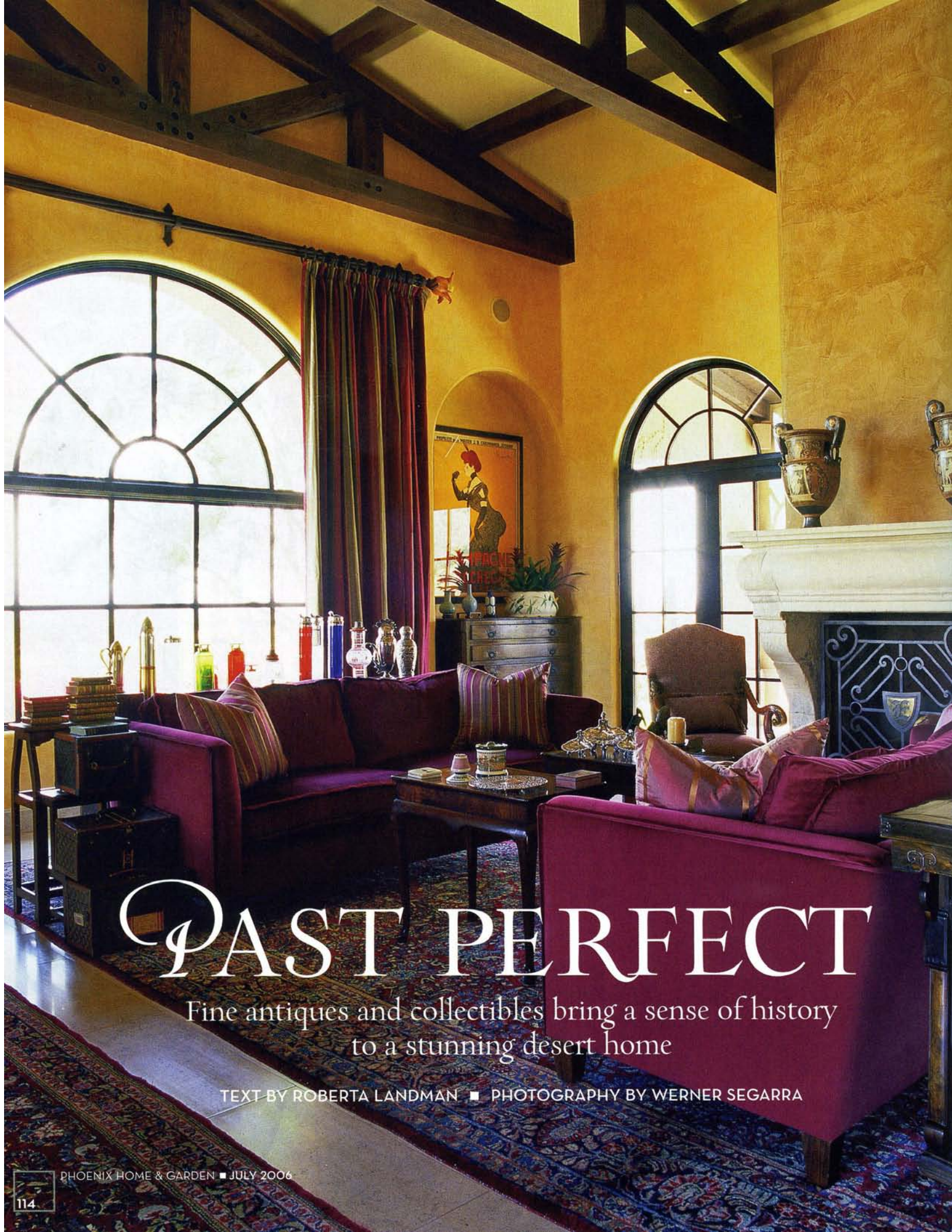
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The Art of Accessorizing





PAST PERFECT

Fine antiques and collectibles bring a sense of history to a stunning desert home

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This page and opposite: A collection of cocktail shakers is displayed in the living room, where furnishings and accessories span the ages. Apulian vases, circa 300 B.C., rest on the fireplace mantel. Hanging nearby is an advertisement-turned-art poster by Leonetto Cappiello, 1875-1942. Drapery rod finials are of blown glass.



Entrance to this residence is gained in the nicest of ways.

Above left: Matching nearby antique ceramics, an early-19th-century transferware sink is set in the kitchen island's walnut top. **Above right:** Shelves of this mid-19th-century English hutch, or dresser, hold more transferware. **Opposite:** Blue Venetian plaster walls in the dining room are the backdrop for antique furnishings and 18th-century Chinese export porcelain vases. The curlicued chandelier is made of burnished brass.

A pristine limestone stairway leads to a stone-fringed portal, and, nearby, a covered patio entices with shaded seating and a tile mural in crisp blue and white. From Portugal, and awash with flourishes, the outdoor art is the first hint that more treasures await inside.

The Mediterranean-style villa belongs to a well-traveled Arizona couple, owners, too, of a 400-year-old restored home in Umbria, Italy. Appreciative of art, fine antiques and the handiwork of more recent generations, they live here in the desert surrounded by lovely trappings and intriguing, often whimsical, collections. This accumulation ranges from Laliue art glass, to the plein-air paintings of California artists, to early-20th-century Cappiello advertising posters-turned-fine art. Included as well are many old-time automobile hood ornaments, one of which is a rendition of Mickey Mouse. In the hands of the creative homeowners, such widely divergent elements become meaningful and well-placed accessories.

Architect Ken Brown designed the atmospheric dwelling. The builder was Schultz Development

Corp. And interior designer Elizabeth A. Rosensteel, a *Phoenix Home & Garden* Master of the Southwest, lent elegant finishing touches in areas such as color choice, fabric selection and draperies.

It was important to the couple that the home exhibit the craftsmanship of centuries past; so, the design team was instructed "to make it look old," says the lady of the house.

Arches and columns, plus domed, groin-vaulted, and trestle-beamed ceilings, provide the timeless appearance the homeowners desired. These features and Venetian plaster-finished walls created by a craftsman from Italy are the backdrop for an assemblage of antiques and collectibles that could fill the galleries of many a museum.

A good portion of the acquisitions were sought by the husband and reflect the stamp of the inveterate collector—the thrill of the hunt. Here and there among the living room's furnishings, for example, are cocktail shakers in such unexpected shapes as an airplane, a lighthouse and a zeppelin. Several shakers rest atop a 16th-century Chinese altar table that had belonged to his parents. Many



Above left: Hanging above the reading room's 1920s French daybed is a 1902 Cappiello poster. An old Louis Vuitton valise serves as a table. Among the *étagère's* treasures are Lalique and Sabino vases.



Above right: The living room's French bronze and porcelain clock was crafted around 1880.

interesting cocktail shakers were being produced in Europe from the teens to the early 1930s, he comments. And, he adds: "The end of Prohibition was the golden age for American shakers."

Rosensteel notes the homeowners' successful combination of antiques and playful items, commending them for displaying a "fun sort of juxtaposition of old and new." Perhaps part of that success lies in their having lived with antiques. "When I was a child, my family purchased a home fully furnished with wonderful antiques," the husband recalls. "Growing up in this environment definitely impacted me. I would rather have one thing of age and beauty than a houseful of 'model home' accessories."

In no small measure, the Arizona home was designed to showcase antiques, artifacts, art and oddities—and specifically pieces of Mediterranean origin. "We've traveled often to Spain, Italy and Portugal and wanted to bring in some of those touches," the wife says. "And we really wanted to incorporate some of the things we've collected."

The tile art on the front patio is merely a teaser for more tiles bought on trips to Portugal over the years and incorporated into the home. For exam-

ple, set within a dining room wall is a mural that once graced the music room of an 18th-century manor house. Multicolor Portuguese tiles also decorate a tall fireplace in the day room, an inviting spot located off the kitchen. And tiles depicting an old fishing scene are ensconced above the kitchen's cobalt-blue Viking stove.

Cabinets here have plenty of space for displaying the wife's antique blue-and-white transferware and spongeware pottery. There are no less than nine spongeware pitchers, their characteristic spattered appearance a warm reminder of times gone by. "I like their shapes," says the collector.

And of her and her husband's collecting habits in general, she laughs, "One becomes 20, and things multiply."

On a more serious note, she speaks of a wonderful sense of history experienced in living with things from the past. "You touch them and wonder about the people who had owned them." An additional benefit: "We buy pieces that have a history behind them, and then they remind us that we were here or there. They reflect a period of our lives and also the joy of having found something unique." □

See Sources.

