

Architectural élan, fine antiques, elegant furnishings,  
and breathtaking decorative details infuse a new home  
with formal Mediterranean flair.

# *Italianate* IDYLL

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The entry and living room open to a loggia that provides comfortable year-round entertaining space beneath tall groin-vault ceilings. Indoor style is welcomed outside via comfortable all-weather seating and living-room-worthy furnishings, such as a travertine console table.





## Classic. Elegant. Timeless. These words guided the design and execution of this unapologetically formal home, which



**ABOVE:** The home's dramatically sited but steeply pitched lot was graded to achieve a single-level floor plan. A red clay tile roof and stucco exterior are classic hallmarks of formal Mediterranean style.

**OPPOSITE:** A hand-painted coffered ceiling and wainscoting embellished with white gold distinguish the formal dining room. Painted and distressed chairs, upholstered in silk, gather around a Regency-style walnut table.

calls on old-world architectural nuances to establish its authenticity. Finely orchestrated by builder John Schultz, architect Mark Candelaria, interior designer Kimberly Colletti, and landscape architect Jeff Berghoff, this new Arizona residence reflects a Mediterranean aesthetic from the outset. "From the moment you enter the auto court and are greeted by hand-carved statuary from Italy, you know you've arrived somewhere special," Colletti says. "It's a visual feast for the eyes."

Carved limestone and stately iron gates herald arrival at the front entry, and the grandeur of the interiors is announced just over the threshold in a light-filled gallery with a cross-axis at its center. Straight ahead, views of a negative-edge pool welcome guests to step outside and enjoy a series of open-air living areas. Turn left or right, and long galleries invite exploration. "The result is a formal and elegant composition with galleries and courtyards that bring in natural light

and create vistas in numerous directions throughout the home," Candelaria says.

Those views of lushly landscaped grounds and natural desert are welcomed into the home through a combination of floor-to-ceiling wood, steel, and arched windows. Traditionally dressed in opulent silks—like most of the home's upholstered furnishings—the windows are an integral architectural component of every room. "Their forms, shapes, and styles are extremely important to the design and feel of the house," Schultz says. "They help create the dramatic look we all wanted to achieve."

Equally dramatic is the lavish use of stone, including gleaming marble floors and ornately carved, honed limestone fireplaces. Together with custom-stained and -glazed paneled walls in some rooms, carefully tinted plaster walls in others, and an abundance of gold-leaf-accented millwork, the house exudes an old-world craftsmanship that sparkles. "The uniqueness of the detail throughout the house is the ultimate luxury," Colletti says.

The home's crowning achievement, both architecturally and decoratively, however, may be its richly embellished ceilings. Some are coffered, others groin-vaulted. Nearly all soar, and all are ornamented by stunning hand-painted, gold-accented artistry illuminated by glittering crystal chandeliers. "The treatments bring the scale and proportion of each space toward you, giving warmth, life, and dimension," Colletti says.

A palette of warm creams, silvery grays, soft blues, and rosy pinks allows fine furnishings—including many Italian antiques, some dating to the 16th century—to be noticed and appreciated. The gilded accents and rich wood tones of the furnishings foster a sense of warmth. "Though grand in scale from a volume and square-footage standard, the home still maintains a level of intimacy," Colletti says. "It's classic, light, and dreamy. It will never go out of style."

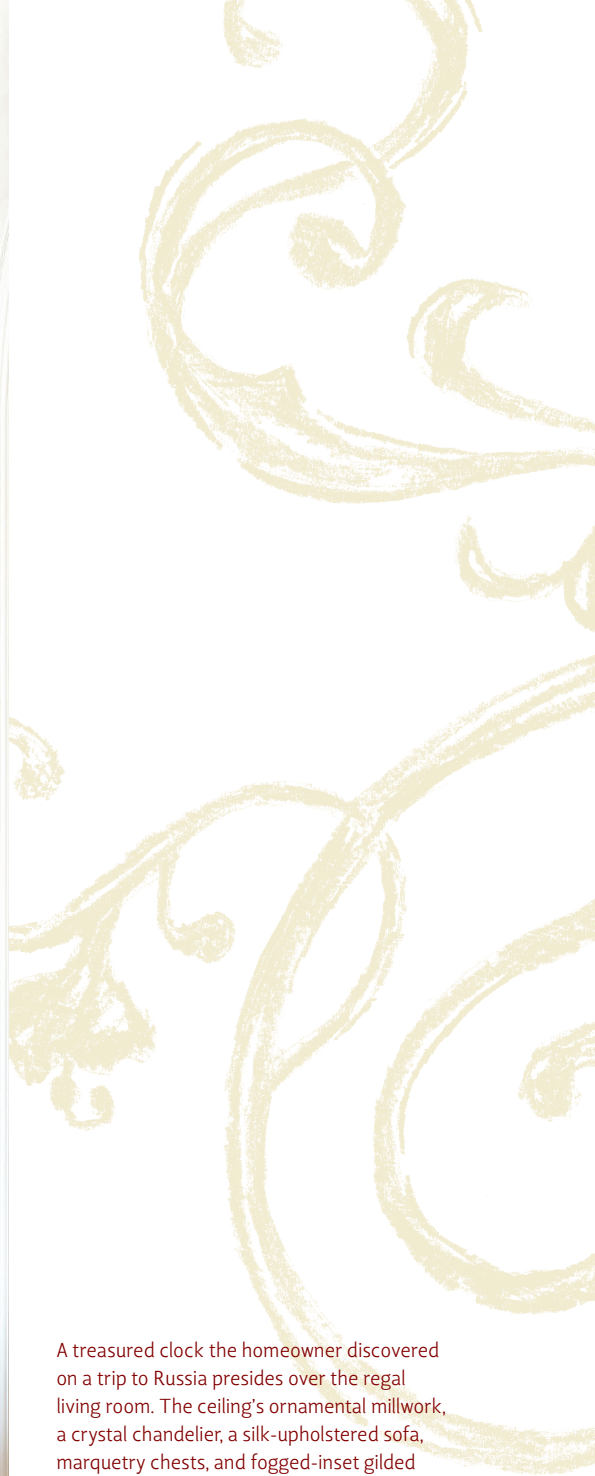












A treasured clock the homeowner discovered on a trip to Russia presides over the regal living room. The ceiling's ornamental millwork, a crystal chandelier, a silk-upholstered sofa, marquetry chests, and fogged-inset gilded mirrors layer the room with European flair. "All of the furnishings were carefully chosen," interior designer Kimberly Colletti says. "Pieces have meaning, and the art throughout tells stories."









**OPPOSITE:** A solid walnut floor with a perimeter brass inlay and walls clad in walnut paneling balance the library's lofty vaulted ceiling, working in consort with chenille-clad club chairs and a 17th-century Italian rectory table to warm the space. **TOP LEFT:** Evincing a cleaner, more streamlined take on formality, the kitchen eases up on the embellishment in favor of a crisp, classic aesthetic. Perimeter counters are marble; the island is topped by honed and textured granite. The barstools' washable velvet-covered seats offer practicality, while the backs clad in silk echo the sparkle of a pair of crystal chandeliers. **TOP RIGHT:** Shimmering wallpaper echoes intricate tilework on the walls and floor in the powder room. **ABOVE LEFT:** The circa-1825 Italian marquetry wood credenza—one of a pair in the dining room—was sleuthed on a buying trip to Los Angeles. The hand-carved Roman muse dates from the 16th century. **ABOVE MIDDLE:** A copper hood crowns an outdoor cooking area located just off the kitchen. All-weather wicker chairs pull up to a travertine-top table for comfortable alfresco dining. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The gracious entry hall features a dramatic groin-vault ceiling, hand-painted with 23-karat gold.









*“Purposeful pairings of original works of art with exquisite antiques add life beyond the subtle color palette.”*

—INTERIOR DESIGNER KIMBERLY COLLETTI

**OPPOSITE:** In the master bedroom, reproduction antique paintings flank a silk-upholstered headboard and bed frame. A silk coverlet and silk pillows confer additional elegance.

**ABOVE LEFT:** Paneled with glazed and stained alder wood, an office opens through French doors to a fountain-graced garden. The antique burl wood desktop is inlaid with leather; a pair of antique chairs wear their original patterned upholstery. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Stone pillars and arches frame the rear loggia, conferring Mediterranean ambiance. **LEFT:** Silk draperies frame a romantic bathing niche in the master bath. Anchored by white marble and awash in painted and glazed woodwork, the room boasts a mosaic mother-of-pearl sink and crystal hardware.