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## uintessential retreat

*Written by Michele Perillo  
Photographed by Dino Tonn*

Located on perhaps one of the most breathtaking view lots in Paradise Valley, a tranquil estate is constructed.

Soon after builder, John Schultz, paired up with architect Mark Candelaria to begin the design/build process on this empty-nesters family retreat, the homeowners brought in accomplished designers Donna Vallone and Niki Saulino to form the ultimate trifecta. This winning combination would assure them the best result in creating their dream home, with the horticultural icing on the cake provided by none other than Jeff Berghoff and his team.



As the sun sets each night, wonderful plays of light begin their dance on the south side of Camelback Mountain casting their luminosity up and over, creating a halo effect which can only be seen by those lucky souls which call the north side of the mountain "home".

An existing down-filled lounge chair with matching ottoman is given new life upholstered in this gorgeous linen cut velvet tiger-print fabric from **Clarence House**. The clean lines of the **A. Rudin** sofa and matching chairs give a nice contrast to the otherwise rustic ambience of the ceiling above.

(Below right)

With much of the rooms light being minimized by the patio's overhang, architects **Mark Candelaria** and **Jeff Kramer** made a critical design decision in adding this enormous skylight above the beams in the kitchen which also paid off in spades aesthetically.

A builder who enjoys getting **up close and personal**, **John Schultz** was beyond satisfied when he and the clients finally struck a home run together locating the perfect lot.

hunt that literally went on for several years, ultimately paid off as **John Schultz** assisted his clients in locating their little slice of heaven within one of Paradise Valley's most captivating enclaves. The acre-plus lot, which boasts an extraordinary southern exposure, came equipped with it's own sense of peaceful calm. In the hands of skilled architects, **Mark Candelaria** and **Jeff Kramer**, every element of this residence was designed around it's very unique relationship to Camelback Mountain. Perhaps one of the most well-kept secrets of Paradise Valley real estate is this special area due north. Beyond the Camel's stealth presence, there is a magical occurrence that happens daily, particularly at dawn and dusk. Wonderful plays of light begin their dance over and around the mountain range. Then, as the sun sets, the city lights cast their luminosity against the south side of the Camel's back thereby creating a lustrous halo which will continue throughout the night hours - only seen by those lucky souls who call the north side of the mountain "home".





As a couple who really enjoys entertaining guests with their culinary skills, it was a natural decision to build their own greenhouse. With both an in-ground garden for vegetables, and a raised potted area for select herbs, the homeowners are able to enjoy freshness yearround. Piped with music, air conditioning and even radiant heat floors for the winter's chilly mornings, this special room has all the trappings of an English gardener's dream - plus so much more.



Specialty rooms may not define the home itself, but they most certainly define its inhabitants and their obvious love of life and their shared passions which transcend throughout this property.

By all accounts it's clear that the homeowners are a very high-spirited, fun-loving, life-celebrating clan whose fabulous way of embracing their blessings is quite contagious - leaving a lasting effect on all members of the team which came together to create this home.

Designer, **Donna Vallone**, whose more than 3 decades of experience both on a national and international platform - with a 12-year stint redesigning Scotland's most prized golf club, Loch Lomond - refers to this particular project as "one of her all-time favorites". Her sentiments are quite evident in her out-of-the-box, adventurous approach to designing these interiors. With a casual and contemporary twist to a Mediterranean-style, she and **Niki Saulino**, enjoyed their treks to the coast with the homeowners, acquiring a diverse, eclectic mix of furnishings, art and accessories.

(Above)

A dining room, with a 6-way vaulted brick ceiling fashioned beautifully by **Candelaria Design**, features a pair of partitioned entry walls which double as mirrored wine presentation cabinets.

(Shown left) A baker's dream, this "confectionary kitchen" is an auxiliary to the primary. It's old world, hand-crafted charm can be seen and felt in every detail. Material choices, such as reclaimed French oak-planked floors, and quartz counters were chosen for their beauty as much as their strength and durability. A tin ceiling, while adding a nice textural element, is poignantly a reflection of yesteryear. Open shelved storage makes for easy access, and adds a yummy, whimsical component to **Donna Vallone's** outstanding interior artistry.







Radiating with personality plus, this light and airy multi-purpose room has quickly replaced the “formal library” as the go-to room of choice.

Originally designed as a “his and her” office with a sleek partners desk, custom (file and storage) cabinets lacquered in french blue with antique striats throughout, this room has become the homeowners favorite place to gather for alone time. Located directly off the kitchen, the space was strategically designed to be situated 14 degrees above the tree line - giving it a feeling of lift and lightness, and adding a magical ambiance throughout the day and into the evening.

Acting as somewhat of an informal media room as well, the windows, with their hidden shade system offers nearly blackout conditions for private movie nights. During the day, this light and airy multi-purpose room has quickly replaced the otherwise “formal library” as the go-to room of choice. When I queried the homeowner as to what they now utilize the library for, she quipped one of the funniest responses that I think I have ever heard. Growing up in the Midwest, we also had a “formal library”. It was never good news if dad called you in for a talk. Her humor was in jest along those lines. As a writer who often only writes from the visual images provided, her stories gave me a very insightful and vivid image of the fun times that are shared at this home and with family and friends.

(Above painting) **Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday.**  
*“The historic Tucson Depot was the site of the 1882 incident involving Wyatt Earp & Doc Holliday that left the outlaw cowboy Frank Stilwell dead.”*  
 Artist, **Thom Ross. Wilde-Meyer Gallery, Scottsdale.**



Custom woodwork and cabinetry by **Finely Designed Inc.** Window shade system by **AZ Custom Designs.** Iron windows and doors from **Riviera Bronze.** All rugs are from **Azadi Fine Rugs.** “Earth Chandelier” from **Julie Neill Designs, New Orleans.** Hardwood flooring by **Premiere Wood Floors.**

Perhaps one of the most dramatic, though subtle details of this room are the flawlessly upholstered walls. Done in a heathered French linen with literally 10's of thousands of blue nail heads securing it in perfect formation, the walls, ceiling and window returns are enveloped in a soft plane of fabric that has resulted in an almost indescribable level of opulence as it pillows around each turn.



(Shown here.)  
Silver-gilded bed is from **Hickory White**. Raised, cut velvet fabric on custom bench is from **Holly Hunt**. Custom firescreen is by **Claire Crowe**. All above are available through Trade Professionals at **John Brooks, Inc.** Bed linens, down pillows and comforters are from **Valerianne** in Scottsdale. Chandelier by **Julie Neill Designs**, New Orleans.

The pièce de résistance - a silver gilded, 19th century Louis Philippe mirror holds onlookers captive above the sink.

(Below) En suite to the master bedroom is a spa-like bath that could easily rival those found in nearly any 5-star resort. A decadent mix and match of stone, marble and solid surfaces creates this tone-on-tone display. To add a bit of intrigue to the floors pattern, **Donna** and **Niki** specified 3 x 12 mosaic inserts made of the same marble to be soldered in to the overall design. Soothing and serene, the free-standing, matte finished soaking tub is paired with a floor mounted **Perrin & Rowe** polished nickel tub filler. (Plumbing fixtures, faucets and lights are a mixture from **Clyde Hardware** and **Waterworks**.)

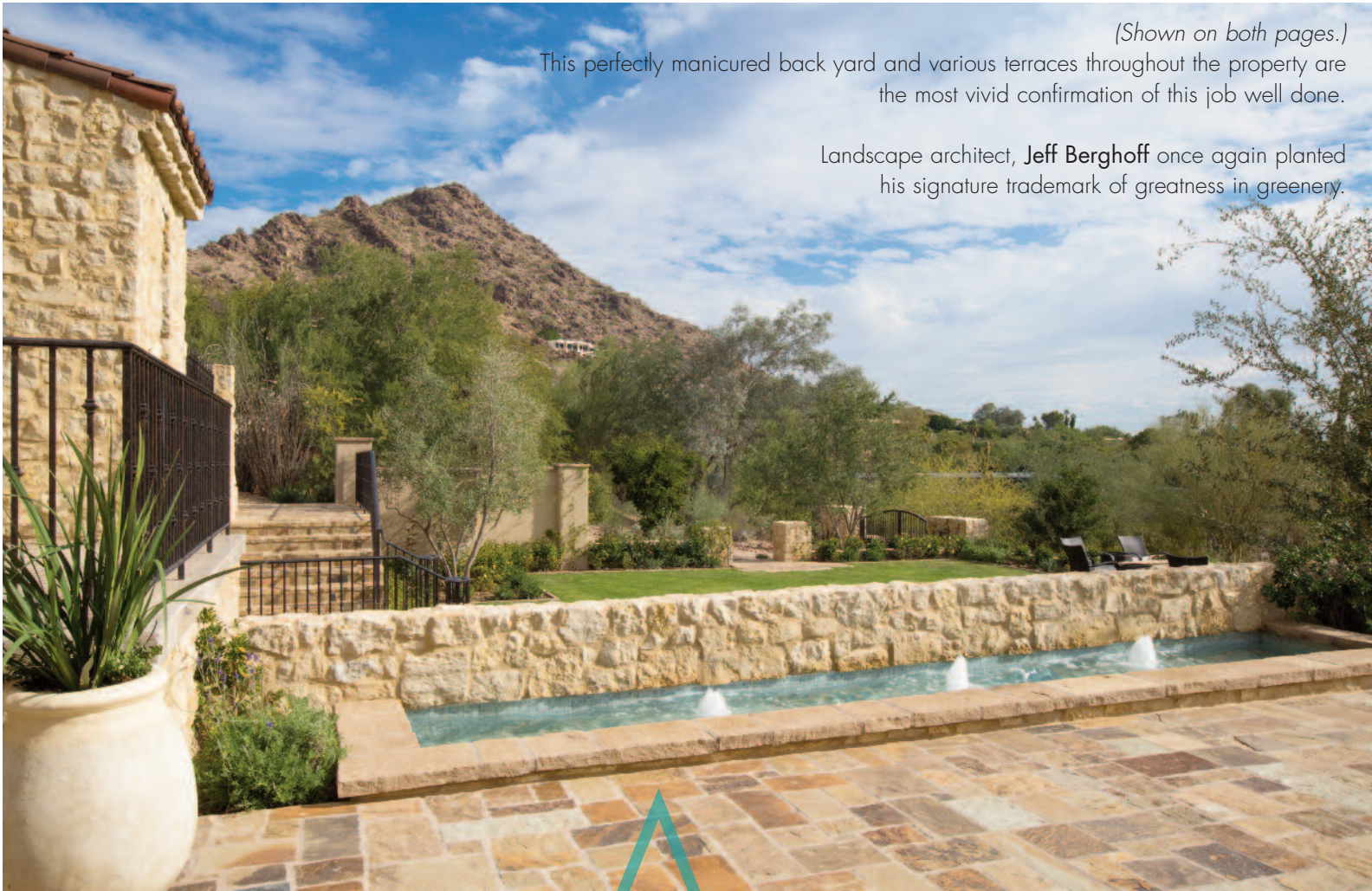


Without question, the real beauty of this home resides in its details and the execution thereof. In that vein, much of the credit deserving goes to well-known luxury home builder, **John Schultz**.

Shown here, the master suite, complete with his and her closets and bath, private entrance and exit to its own separate veranda, has been beautifully appointed with some of the most romantic accents found anywhere on the property. A 17th century French limestone fireplace centers the room - with its bronze butterfly firescreen adding an artful, playful touch to the setting. The soffited ceiling with hand-formed custom molding surrounds has been flawlessly finished in the time-honored tradition of hand-trolled, lime-based plaster. The separate play on height creates both a raised, celestial feeling over the bed while the lowered portion still captures and cradles a sense of calm and intimacy.

Because the main living area of the home is very casual, and somewhat contemporary, designers, **Donna** and **Niki** opted to add a bit more formality and texture to the design of the master by incorporating a traditional, large-planked herringbone pattern with a bordered surround. The anchoring choice both compliments and differentiates the room from the straight planks of antique french oak seen throughout the rest of the home - adding a little "je ne sais quoi" to the mix.





(Shown on both pages.)  
This perfectly manicured back yard and various terraces throughout the property are the most vivid confirmation of this job well done.

Landscape architect, **Jeff Berghoff** once again planted his signature trademark of greatness in greenery.



**A**ll told, the driving aspiration of this project from the start was to create a home which would comfortably match the needs of these empty-nesters while eliminating much of the efforts they had previously put forth in maintaining a large property. Downsizing from an expansive Valley estate, the couple wanted to fashion the design around their current lifestyle as socially and physically active adults, and grandparents. Specifically, the requirements included accommodating family and friends, both as overnight guests or visitors, the ability to entertain both large and small groups on short notice, a cooks kitchen that would also allow others to join in and even participate, an area to continue to explore their shared love of gardening, and a centralized location giving them the ability to take walks, swim, work-out and of course, golf without venturing too far from home.

Under the watchful eye and exacting specifications of builder, **John Schultz**, this mission was more than accomplished. The architects, interior designers, as well as the individual craftsmen pulled out every stop in creating a home which is lavishly all-encompassing in every way, yet still allowed for the owners to have a lock-it-and-leave-it option in the hot summer months to venture back north to their ranch in the high country. Without exception, every member of this much-celebrated team did their part - and more - exceeding all expectations. In the end, there is no better accolade than the many words of praise by the homeowner. For them, this private residence will surely be a long term stay - a wonderful place of calm and peace - fun, laughter and love for all those in their lives to share.

**CREDITS:**

Builder: **John Schultz, Schultz Development**; Architecture: **Candelaria Design, Mark Candelaria and Jeff Kramer**; Interior Design: **Vallone Design, Donna Vallone and Niki Sailino**; Landscape Architecture: **Jeff Berghoff, Berghoff Design Group**; Iron doors and windows, **Riviera Bronze**; Custom shade systems: **AZ Custom Design**; Hardwood Flooring: **Premiere Wood Floors**; Millwork and cabinetry: **Finely Designed, Inc**; Plumbing fixtures and hardware: **Clyde Hardware and Waterworks**.



An assortment of unusual antique fountains, troughs and urns from France were sourced by **Jeff Berghoff** of **Berghoff Design Group**. As well, **Jeff** was responsible for both the design and oversaw the construction of the various waterfeatures. With world-class facilities just a stones throw from the property, the homeowners elected to beautify there yard with useable space rather than build their own pool or spa. And although the property is a full 2 acres, **Jeff Berghoff** strategically designed and installed native desert landscape on three of the four sides, creating a very natural setting which requires little to no maintenance. Not surprisingly his company, **Berghoff's** maintenance division, still cares for the property. At the time of this photo shoot, the Fall plantings had just been laid.