

Artistic. Rendering

A new home stays in step with its desert locale while paying homage to century-old Spanish missions in ways that satisfy the homeowners' love of distinctive things.

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Brick lends rich, textural color and Spanish-style substance to a groin-vault ceiling and arched niches while fostering a sense of intimacy in Grant Ulrick and Donna Krebs-Ulrick's dining room.

THIS PHOTO: Pocket doors in the great-room retract to unite indoor and outdoor entertaining areas. OPPOSITE: The Spanish Mission-style exterior features a domed tower housing a working antique church bell.





After exploring historic Spanish missions in Florida and Arizona, Connecticut-based Grant Ulrick and Donna Krebs-Ulrick experienced a design epiphany. “We loved the missions’ beautiful architecture and warm rustic appeal,” Donna says. “We decided to build a home that would feel authentic, right down to the artwork and ornate church details.”

To bring their vision to life, the couple asked architect Gary Wyant and interior designer Lissa Lee Hickman to design a retreat in Scottsdale, Arizona—set on a 2.75-acre lot nestled into the McDowell Mountains—capable of serving their living and entertaining needs both now and in their round-the-corner retirement years. Wyant called on stucco walls, a barrel clay-tile roof, exposed rafter tails, and carved stone details to give the Spanish Mission home a period-perfect profile from the outside.

Decorative corbels, stone columns, cantera stone fireplaces, black-iron gates and grills, arched niches, reclaimed-walnut floors, and colorful tile treatments work hand-in-hand with groin-vault ceilings, sculpted shell niches, exposed beams, and heavy timber trusses to evoke a Spanish feel inside. A collection of 17th- and 18th-century devotional artworks and artifacts, which Hickman helped Donna and Grant assemble, reinforces the home’s religious-inspired roots. But comfortably scaled seating pieces and relaxed fabrics, such as linens and cottons, ease formality.

“We wanted to give Donna and Grant the Spanish style they desired in a way that was elegant, comfortable, and approachable,” Hickman says. The impressively scaled great-room, for example, cultivates a sense of intimacy with two sitting areas: one anchored by brick-red, mohair-clad sofas, the other by four motion armchairs that allow guests to be part of every conversation with a swivel of their seat.

Desert hues and jewel tones—framed by expansive windows that welcome in city light views and retractable doors which allow for easy indoor-out living—further relax the home. “Those wonderful views are like artworks,” Donna says. “I wanted people to come in, put their feet up, and take in the sights. And that’s what our guests do.”

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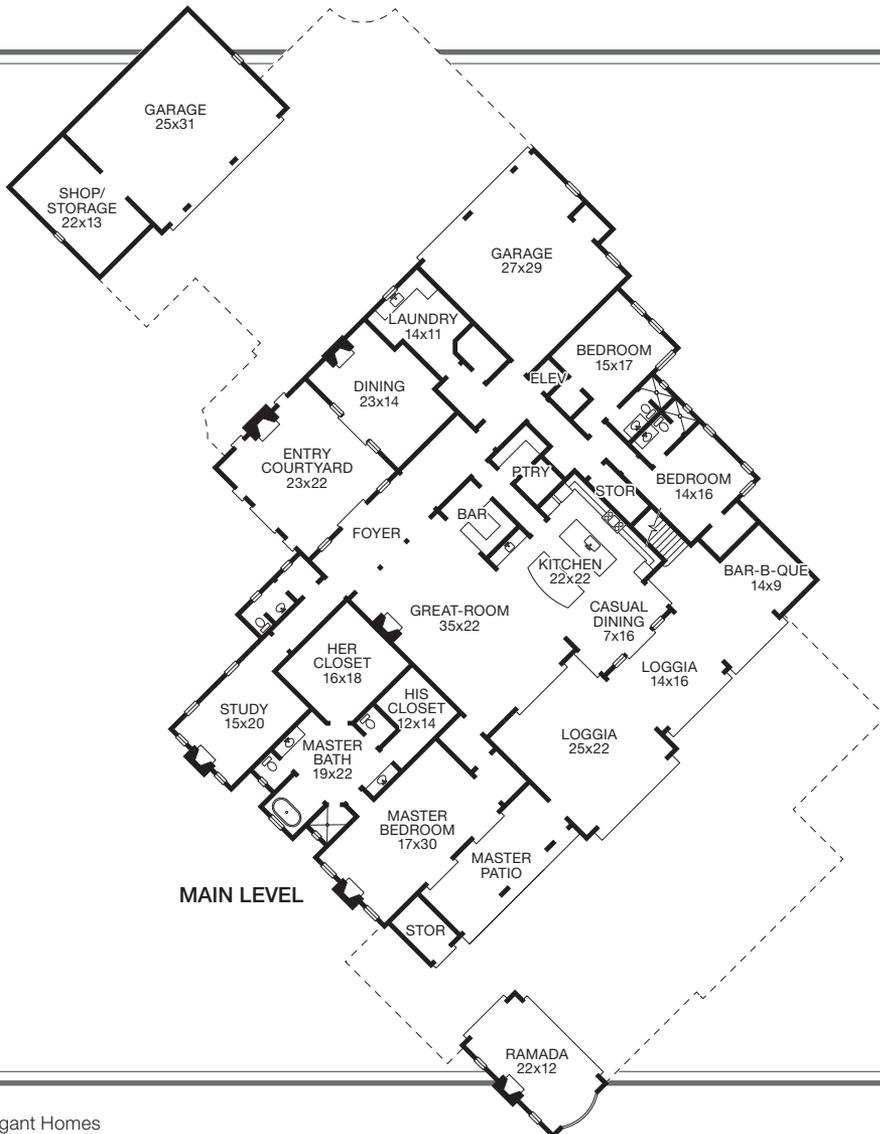




LEFT: Reclaimed-walnut floors cued a mesquite wood countertop for the kitchen's center island, which also boasts hand-carved furniturelike details. Spanish-motif backsplash tiles turn the range area into a focal point while tying into the terra-cotta tiles installed between the beams on the coffered ceiling. ABOVE: Spanish tiles and pillow fabrics carry the blue hues from the nearby infinity pool into an alfresco seating area. "This is where we sit every night, enjoying a fire," Donna says. RIGHT: Spanish antique reproduction furnishings and chandeliers, like those in this casual dining space, appear throughout the home.



RIGHT: Tile wainscoting in the powder room highlights a handcrafted mirror with a gilded finish and a custom vanity equipped with a limestone sink. FAR RIGHT: The master bedstead was custom-designed to mirror the silhouette of a Spanish antique. OPPOSITE: Reclaimed-limestone floor pavers in the master bath supply a rustic counterweight to glazed tiles that were individually set to create the wainscoting's herringbone pattern.

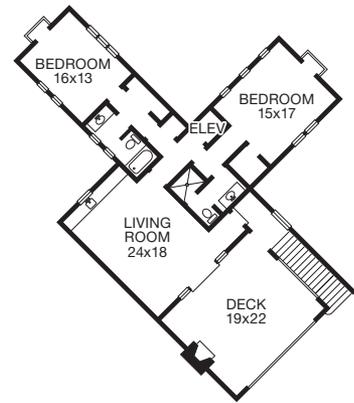


Floor plan

TOTAL SQ. FT: 7,555

BEDROOMS: 5

BATHROOMS: 5 full, 1 half



Floor plan © Calvis Wyant Luxury Homes

