

ITALIAN AURA

MEDITERRANEAN CHARM AND MODERN ELEGANCE
HARMONIZE IN A PARADISE VALLEY RETREAT.

WRITTEN BY ROBYN WISE / PHOTOGRAPHY BY WERNER SEGARRA



INTERIOR DESIGN / LISSA LEE HICKMAN, LHL INCORPORATED
ARCHITECTURE / GARY WYANT, CALVIS WYANT LUXURY HOMES
HOME BUILDER / SCOTT EDWARDS, CALVIS WYANT LUXURY HOMES
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE / JEREMY MCVICARS, REFINED GARDENS



Interior designer Lissa Lee Hickman furnished the living room of a Paradise Valley home—by residential designer Gary Wyant—in a neutral palette with rust accents. One of two seating areas in the space features a custom bronze Paul Ferrante coffee table, a Formations chandelier and JJ Custom sofas, all from John Brooks Incorporated. The armchairs are from Chaddock in Morganton, North Carolina. Throw pillows from Town add a finishing touch of pattern. Walls painted in Phoenix Villa by Dunn-Edwards. Paints offset floors and ceilings lined with French white oak by The Floor Collection Design.

For the Paradise Valley second home of empty nesters Tom and Sharon Zollo, “the idea was to bring a lighter, brighter feeling to the rural Mediterranean-style abode,” says interior designer Lissa Lee Hickman, adding that the Zollos were inspired by the residential architecture in the Italian countryside. “We wanted a home like those we saw there—elegant but still rustic and not too formal,” says Sharon.

The couple, based in Chicago, also wanted scale without sacrificing intimacy. In addition to large collections of books and wine, the house needed to accommodate dozens of relatives—more than 40 altogether at holidays—with ease and privacy. To meet both of their requirements, they called on residential designer Gary Wyant and builder Scott Edwards, who realized the residence. Its carefully sequenced rooms, says Wyant, “are adequate in scale but human-sized and lend a cozier feeling to such a big home.” A secluded office for the husband, a pair of two-bedroom casitas and numerous “little retreat spots” also make the compound perform well for crowds.

To devise the home’s Mediterranean aesthetic, Wyant and Edwards worked with Hickman from the outset to create the fluid indoor-outdoor layout and the integrated palette of pale limestone, creamy stucco and reclaimed brick and oak. “In the past, a lot of Tuscan-style houses were darker, with deeper stains and heavier fabrics,” notes Wyant. “This is a much cleaner version. The stucco is light and nothing is heavy.” Reclaimed materials blend seamlessly with the new, thanks to the meticulous craftsmanship of Edwards.







"It's not easy to make something new look like an old Italian villa," Edwards says, "but by blending weathered stone and wood with contemporary elements like steel-frame windows, we created a sense of authenticity, as if the house had stood the test of time already."

Particularly beautiful is the barrel-brick ceiling in the kitchen, which provides warmth and texture above clean cabinetry that was stained in a custom light-gray hue. Neutral walls throughout feature crisp corner beads, and white French oak lines both the floor and ceiling in the living room. "Typically, we'll do light ceilings with a darker floor," Hickman notes, "but here the oak ceiling has a richer stain than the wood underfoot, creating visual contrast and more intimacy."

Another notable characteristic is the complete absence of rugs. "We have two dogs," explains Sharon. "Our elderly

corgi, Phoenix, walks with the assistance of a wheel harness, so carpets would impede his mobility." Hickman dialed up the warmth factor in other areas, notably her thoughtfully curated furnishings, upholstery and window treatments. "I relied on interesting textures and plush fabrics like velvet on the ottoman, linen on throw pillows and a linen-wool blend for the sofa fabric to create depth and approachability," she says. A peaceful color palette of soft rust, cream and navy blue—inspired by a favorite piece of china the wife brought to Hickman in their very first meeting—connects the rooms with varied tones and sparing use of pattern.

In the living room, multiple seating areas include an arrangement of oversize chairs and sofas that surround one of Hickman's favorite custom pieces—a massive bronze-and-glass coffee table by Paul Ferrante. Sharon spends a lot of

Pendants by Vaughan hang above the kitchen island, which is topped in Calacatta Gold marble countertops by Arizona Tile. Painted cabinets by Goodall Custom Cabinetry & Millwork and sleek Dornbracht fixtures contrast with warm, reclaimed brick overhead. Tile by Facings of America provides the backsplash.

"We created drama with the vaulted ceiling," Hickman says of the dining room, which also features French doors that lead to the back garden. A farmhouse-style dining table by Artifacts International is illuminated by an latesta Studio chandelier, both from Palavela Home. The Regal Furniture dining chairs are dressed in Kravet fabric.





Hickman worked with Craftsman Court Ceramics to design a hand-etched pattern on the marble floor beneath the freestanding tub in the master bath. Dornbracht fixtures, steel-frame windows by Sienna Custom Window & Door and pendants by Dennis & Leen create clean, contemporary lines. The vanity bench is by Waterworks.

time in the space, noting, "It's a big room, but even when I'm here alone, I never feel overwhelmed." A striking sculptural bed takes center stage in the master bedroom while a crystal chandelier "adds a touch of sparkle," Hickman says. Pared back yet luxurious, the master bath features a hand-etched pattern on the floor beneath the soaking tub, which Hickman points out, "warms the all-marble space so it doesn't feel too stark."

And then there are the home's enticing grounds by landscape designer Jeremy McVicar, who transformed the property with reclaimed-brick hardscaping. A welcoming courtyard continues into the back garden, framing a

classical pool, linear water fountains and numerous outdoor living areas, each with a distinct personality. The native plantings, he says, "create a lush desert palette that's elevated to the level of a resort experience."

Do the Zollos' beloved dogs approve of the final results? "Yes—there's lots of stone and wood for them to sleep on," says Sharon, who is equally pleased with the outcome. "It's a beautiful place," she says, noting that it easily accommodated their large extended family, who came to stay for two weeks. And that, says Wyant, is the key to its success. "You want a house that's attractive and has curb appeal, but it's important to me that we have a house that functions beautifully as well." ■



In the master bedroom, custom bed linens and throw pillows in Kerry Joyce fabrics from Design Alliance LA in Los Angeles continue the color scheme's navy accents while a crystal chandelier by Dennis & Leen adds a glamorous note. A Lee Industries lounge chair from Witford in West Hollywood offers a cozy spot for reading.





“THE IDEA WAS TO BRING A LIGHTER, BRIGHTER FEELING TO THE RURAL MEDITERRANEAN-STYLE ABODE.”

—LISSA LEE HICKMAN

Opposite: Generous eaves shading the terrace off the living room frame views over landscaping by landscape designer Jeremy McVicar and toward Camelback Mountain beyond. Brick hardscaping borders a rectangular pool by Sarto Pools and delineates beds of lush plantings.

Below: Among the compound's many secluded outdoor retreats is an intimate sitting area off the front courtyard with a fireplace. Furniture by Kingsley Bate from Inside/Out Showroom complements the integral color stucco by Star Plastering and pale limestone veneer by Modern Group.

