

SPECIAL DREAM HOMES ISSUE

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Casa de Sondes

A longtime dream is realized in a remarkable Scottsdale hacienda.

Text by Roberta Landman • Photography by Dina Torres

The living room, a striking marriage of natural materials and architectural drama, features a high timber-beamed ceiling, a dual-sided cantera fireplace, and a wide arched window that showcases a painterly desert view; interior designer Becky Kremen says the variety of fabrics and leather on the room's upholstered pieces were chosen with an eye toward softening the look of the room's hard surfaces. Stones of the monumentally proportioned fireplace are set without mortar, notes architect Rick Dougherty. "Blocks of cantera were brought to the spot, carved and shaped to fit, and put in place." A music room lies beyond the brick-venomed archway to the left.



erams. Laree is respectful of its craftsmanship and charmed by its large yet cozy spaces. A favorite spot is the kitchen. It has the same earthy timber ceiling as the living room, plus a hearth room with sitting area and fireplace. When the couple entertains, she says, "People always come in the kitchen." And that is as it should be, for her own vision of the house her husband built is that "It's a home, and we want it to be friendly."

Photos: Home & Garden

A smiling Arch says he expects the couple's four grand daughters to use the long hall as a bowling alley when they visit. And, summing up the satisfying experience of building his dream hacienda, he reflects: "I had this idea in my head for a long, long time. And I said, 'If I like what I have done, we'll move in. If not, I'll make it a spec house.'"

The rest is history. &

See Resources Guide



Above: A two-sided carter fireplace in the master bedroom separates sleeping and sitting areas. As elsewhere in the home, a brick-trimmed arch provides beauty and definition. • **Top right:** With its stone walls and trio of wall decor crosses, the powder room has a chapel-like appearance. • **Right:** The Euro-style guest suite bath boasts twin pedestal sinks and white tile wainscoting trimmed with silvery tile.





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