

■ MIDDLE GROUND ■

WRITTEN BY LINDA HAYES
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAURA MOSS

WHEN AMELIA KIZERIAN, OWNER AND PRINCIPAL DESIGNER OF AMELIA KIZERIAN INTERIORS IN SCOTTSDALE, SET ABOUT IMAGINING THE INTERIORS OF A CHICAGO COUPLE'S DESERT RETREAT, LITTLE DID SHE KNOW SHE'D BE PLAYING MATCH-MAKER, TOO. "The owners had a high-rise lifestyle, so this house was a major step for them," Kizerian says. "My biggest challenge was reconciling their ultra-modern sensibilities with Southwest desert living."

INTERIOR DESIGN Amelia Kizerian, Amelia Kizerian Interiors		
ARCHITECTURE Steve Simpson, Simpson Design Associates, LLC		
HOME BUILDER Scott Edmunds, CSE & Associates, Inc.		
BEDROOMS 4	BATHROOMS 5	SQUARE FEET 4,997



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Steve Simpson, managing partner of Simpson Design Associates in Scottsdale, found himself in a similar position regarding the architectural design of the home, which is set within an exclusive Silverleaf subdivision. "The home was subject to very specific style restrictions that leaned toward a more Spanish Colonial concept, with smaller windows and intimate spaces," he explains. "The owners, though, were all about big glass and the mountain views. Our challenge was to meld the two together."

For Simpson's part, he specified exterior materials and details that fit the style of the subdivision, such as native sandstone that was cultivated on site and wood-shuttered windows with divided lights, and kept the home's gabled profile. A courtyard was added at the front; at the rear, a wall of fully pocketing glass doors reveals expansive patios and a pool. Inside, a small entry foyer opens onto a great room, which Simpson describes as "the centerpoint of the house, a half-mass with beamed, 19-foot ceilings and a series of high clerestory windows." The space is flanked by a pair of wings, one encompassing the master suite and family areas, including a flex television room, a study and a trio of guest bedrooms; the other houses a kitchen complete with service pantry, dining and breakfast rooms, and the wife's office.

Aside from the neutral, cream-and-chocolate color palette, a specific directive from the owners, Kizerian was afforded a little more leeway with the interiors. "Rather than the very contemporary feel of their Chicago home, we went for casual and clean, with soft lines and no clutter," Kizerian notes.



NEUTRAL TONES
The home's cream-and-chocolate color palette is highlighted in the long, narrow great room. Honed limestone flooring is softened by the deeply textural undertones on the custom-designed sofa, Madison chairs and hand-knotted Tabriz carpet from David E. Adler.



GOURMET TASTES

The wife's personal cooking style influenced the open kitchen and dining areas. Medium-distressed stained alder cabinets with raised panels are paired with granite. Buff leather and maple stools are by Jake from Berman Rosetti.



STYLE SELECTION

Designer Kevin Reilly's sophisticated hanging light for Holly Hunt is available in different candle configurations on a steel frame with various patina options. *Helios Ring (Round) Hanging Light*, price available upon request; hollyhunt.com

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But, since furniture had to work with the exterior as well, due to the open nature of the design, what wasn't custom-designed was painstakingly hand-picked from showrooms in Scottsdale and Los Angeles. Certain art pieces were brought from the owners' Chicago home.

To encourage indoor-outdoor living, particularly in the great room, honed limestone flooring flows throughout the house, and then out and around the exterior. "When the great room doors are open, you can't tell if you're inside or out," Kizerian says. "The house seems to double in size." To allow both intimacy for the owners and seating for guests, furniture—including four textured linen Madison chairs and a sofa designed by Kizerian—is arranged symmetrically in the long, narrow space. A trio of custom-finished wood Louis XIV chandeliers dangles overhead.

Symmetry combines with function in the kitchen, which features stained alder cabinetry, granite slab countertops, state-of-the-art appliances and a work island edged with swiveling barstools by Jake. A custom Helios dining table with Filly side chairs, both by Berman Rosetti, is the focal spot of the dining room.



DESERT OASIS

The McDowell Mountains provide a natural backdrop for the home, where indoor-outdoor living is the rule. The back yard pool, by Glendale's Desert Springs Outdoor Environments, is surrounded by limestone and edged with native cactus and plants.



DINING NICHE

The custom Helios dining table from Berman Rosetti features a natural rift-cut wenge top. Filly side chairs are chocolate on maple with ivory chenille seats. The chandelier is Kevin Reilly for Holly Hunt.



SECRET GARDEN

The courtyard entry makes a welcoming first impression, enhanced by the use of native sandstone that was cultivated on site, as well as traditional Spanish Mission-style roofing and wood-shuttered windows.

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Comfort, and a touch more color, is evident in both the master suite and guest rooms, where specially made beds with plush coverings are accented with decorative pillows and paired with custom furniture and lamps. Intricate limestone and marble tile patterns in the master bath create a pathway to the outside, accessed via glass doors fitted with Roman shades.

Regarding the overall effect of the home, general contractor Scott Edmunds, of CSE & Associates, the primary build-design entity for the Silverleaf community, comments: "Instead of the typical Santa Fe look, we created a classical Mediterranean style and feel with materials that hold up in the Arizona climate." Kizerian adds: "We minimized problems and maximized solutions. Three years in, and it's still the owners' favorite place to be." **L**