

OUTDOOR LIVING AT ITS BEST

# PHOENIX HOME & GARDEN

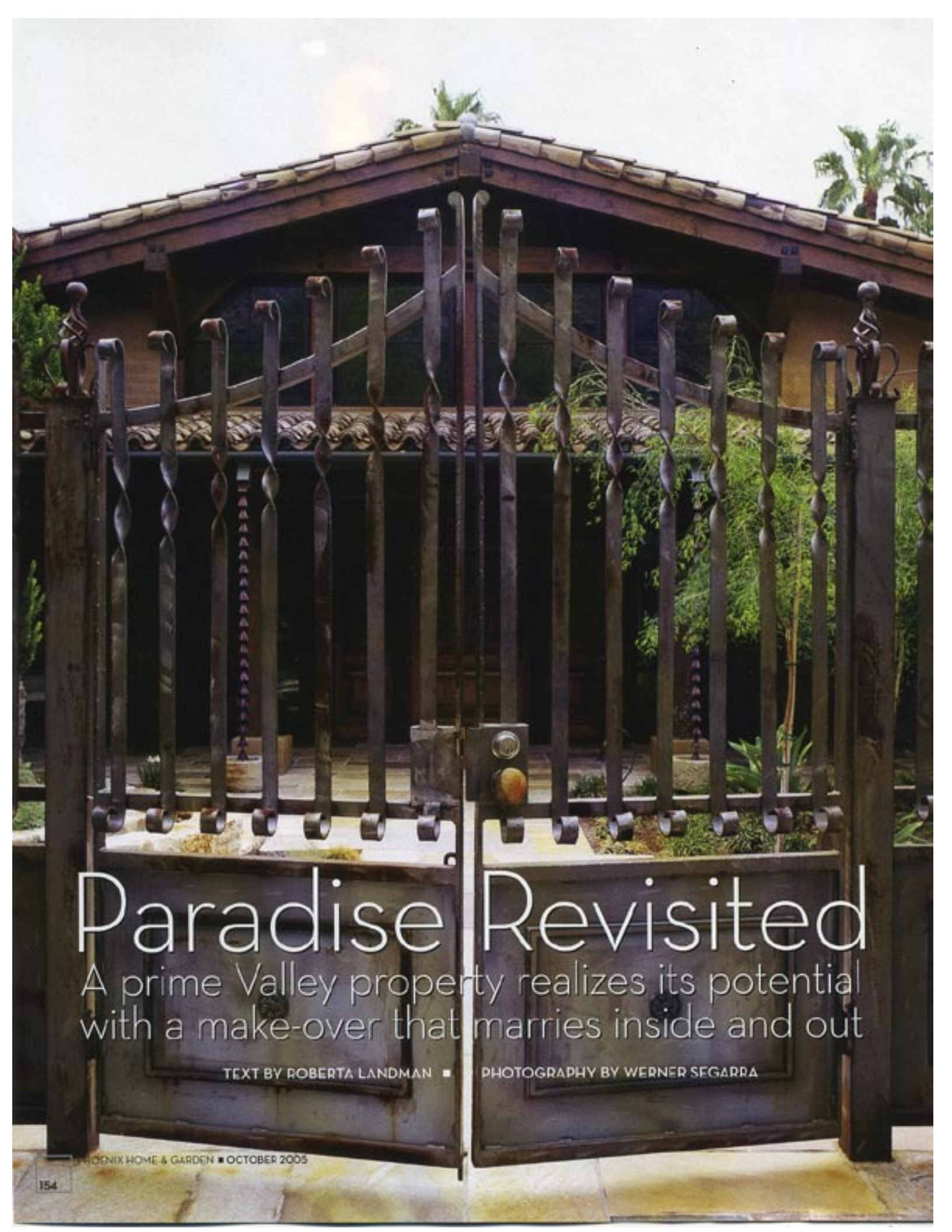
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# Paradise Revisited

A prime Valley property realizes its potential with a make-over that marries inside and out

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Remodeling this Paradise Valley home saw the addition of a comfy outdoor living room with focal-point fireplace and grapevine-clad roof (this page), and the expansion and enhancement of an existing courtyard (opposite). The iron gate's rock doorknob was the homeowners' idea.

# The mistress

of this Paradise Valley residence calls a little speak-easy opening in her entry "my Oz door." And, like the Oz of book and movie fame, there is an over-the-rainbow enchantment about the house and its setting.

Mother Nature had a lot to do with the magical look of the acre-plus property. Mummy Mountain is a stone's throw from the home's cobbled drive, and Camelback Mountain frames the sloping back yard with a masterpiece view.

Recently, a group of professionals added to nature's glory in a tear-down makeover of what had been a 1960s Ranch-style home, and the reinvention of its outdoor spaces. Among the latter are an enclosed entry courtyard with flowing water feature, multiple terraced garden areas, tucked-away spots for both meditation and fun, and outdoor rooms finished with flair.

Design team members, who worked closely with the homeowners, included architect Cathy Hayes, builder/remodeler Greg Hunt, interior designer Karen Rapp, and landscape architect Greg Trutza. Their goal was to provide the same kind of charm the owners had loved

about the old house for 17 years, but with improved living spaces and a distinct indoor/outdoor orientation. Only two of the walls from the original home were left standing.

A special-events planner and mother of a 12-year-old daughter, the wife says what bothered her and her real estate professional husband about the former home was that its exterior spaces were not being used to their best advantage. Lacking were comfortable and conveniently located areas for dining and relaxing.

The rebuilt residence offers not only more living space and finer amenities, it also ties together indoor and outdoor living, Hunt notes.

Directing the re-do was the homeowners' love of entertaining, Hayes says. "Large to small groups frequently gather at the home. Parties are designed to be interactive, with wonderful imaginative amusements for children and adults always part of the events. In developing the design, we visualized multiple gathering spaces that really flowed from the inside to the outside."

A case in point: When telescoping glass doors open and are hidden from view, the large light-filled living room becomes one with a well-appointed outdoor room that boasts a trestle-beam ceiling. Between the beams, and adding a note of rusticity, are strips of grapestake; these repeat an element found in the home's entry.

Not far away, a separate covered dining pavilion with grill and built-in pizza oven seems a scene out of Europe or California's wine country. A long rustic dining table is an old French work table. "We found it in a boutique in Santa Monica,"

**Opposite:** Kansas rubble stone adds rustic flavor to this intriguing courtyard water feature. "I wanted the front fountain to hint at being a cisternlike water source," says landscape architect Greg Trutza of its unusual shape.





says Rapp. "It had been the checkout counter." Vintage agricultural smudge pots, looking like sculpture, were made by a California company the homeowner's grandfather once owned. "We discovered them up at Garland's Lodge, near Sedona," says the granddaughter. They were about to be discarded.

All about this property are visual delights: a vignette of stone chairs for a tête-à-tête; a table-and-chairs sculpture converted to a water feature; a hidden rose garden; a negative-edge swimming pool that appears to send its water rushing down to meet a lower lawn terrace.

The timeless look of the landscape belies the forethought that made it possible. For example, mindful of the homeowners' love of party-giving, Trutza created a flat lawn area for tents and catering access. Overall, he notes, "The challenge was to allow outdoor living areas and associated gardens to graciously flow into vast depths of the desert landscape."

Design team members say that behind all the fun, whimsy and delight is the guiding artistic sense of the woman of the house, who once studied fiber art. "She has fabulous taste," Rapp comments. "Her sense of aesthetics comes from her heart and her feelings. She has an artist's point of view."

When telescoping glass doors are open, the living room and its outdoor counterpart merge almost indiscernibly. Castello Monastere Italian tumbled travertine flooring, used in both spaces, adds to the seamless look. The artist's easel in the background, displayed as art, belonged to the late Fritz Scholder. The front courtyard lies beyond the alder front door and wood-framed windows.







This page and opposite: The pavilion, with stone pizza oven and vintage French table, invites casual dining. The metal table-and-chair sculpture (far left) was converted to a water feature.



**Above:** A rose garden is tucked into a cozy area behind a pool-equipment house. **Opposite:** Inspired by Old World fountains, this stone sink is located on a back patio. Behind the votive-topped wall is an outdoor shower.

Along with her husband and daughter, this homeowner is delighted with the made-over property. A new kitchen with easy access to outdoor areas is a special pleasure. "I love to cook, and we love having a kitchen where everyone comes and helps prepare," she says. "It's a good ice-breaker."

Admitting that she once worried that a new house would "lose the charm" of the old one, she now says, "This is better than I ever imagined." □

*See Sources.*

