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THIS PHOTO and OPPOSITE: The French influence at Kim and Bruce Scodro's Arizona home starts in the entry with an antique gilt-frame mirror, a distressed chest, Louis XV-style chairs, and French stone flooring. "If you bend down and smell it, it smells like the sea," Kim says.



## living in the moment

FRESH COOKIES AND FRENCH-INSPIRED PATINA WARM  
A CHICAGO COUPLE—AND THEIR DESERT GETAWAY.

writer: JODY GARLOCK photographer: LAURA MOSS producer: JESSICA BRINKERT HOLTAM





THIS PHOTO: A curvaceous limestone fireplace anchors the living room's lofty wood-trussed ceiling. ABOVE LEFT: A painting of French writings by Chicago artist Francine Turk inspires Kim every time she walks through the entry to her bedroom. "She just picked up her paints and moved to Paris," Kim says. "I'm drawn to pieces she did during her time in France."

Slowing down isn't something Kim Scodro is wired to do. Her interior design business takes her between Chicago (home base to her and her husband, Bruce, as well as their two grown sons and their families) and Scottsdale, Arizona. Almost every Thursday, Kim catches a late flight to the couple's second home in Scottsdale, where the next day she's ready to meet with clients or steal away to a quiet room to work on design projects.

It's exactly because of their busy lives (Bruce often travels for his job, too) that the couple embrace their time in the desert. Their Scottsdale home, built in 2015 on the 12th hole of a golf course with a mountain view, is all about achieving balance. Even when they're catching up on work, the home feeds their souls. "We walk in this house and just breathe," Kim says. "It has a relaxed way. You feel the warmth immediately."

Warmth is a word that guided every decision Kim made with architect Erik Peterson, builder Tanner Luster, and landscape architect Russell Greey. Kim and Bruce wanted their retreat to be reminiscent







The kitchen reflects Kim's modern spin on a utilitarian French version. A table attached to the island mimics a big farm table. Hand-painted concrete tiles draw the eye to the cooking zone. Glazed cabinets are topped with marble countertops. And supporting it all is French oak flooring, a mix of new and reclaimed planks.





of the homes they've visited on their now annual trips to France—a country they fell in love with years ago after they rented a house to give their boys an appreciation for a different culture.

Rich wood trusses, reclaimed barnwood built-ins, and French oak flooring combine with plaster walls to contribute to the home's inviting feeling. "It's more about a feeling than a look," Kim says in describing the country French elements that influenced her design decisions. "I wanted to create a home with warmth and patina, where nothing is too forced—things just are what they are."

As with their lifestyle, the house itself was all about achieving balance. As much as the Scodros wanted to capture a bit of France, they also wanted the house to complement its desert locale. "The home looks out into desert landscape, so it seemed unnatural to go completely in one direction," Kim says. Arched interior doorways nod to French influences, but the



OPPOSITE: French doors behind the tub in the master bath open to a courtyard with a fountain—a design feature common to French homes. TOP: Dark-stained wood ceiling beams lend a sense of age to the master bedroom, where walls and curtains shift to soft pink. "After raising two boys, the master bedroom's color choice was a little bit of a rebellion," Kim says. ABOVE: Memories of trips to France inspired Kim throughout the process of building her Arizona home.



*“Texture is key in a home with a soft palette, which is why we chose linens, velvets, plaster walls, and woods that have a lovely patina.”*

—homeowner and interior designer  
KIM SCODRO



OPPOSITE: One wall of the living room slides open to provide access to a cozy loggia that's warmed by a limestone fireplace and stay-awhile seating. A limestone-trimmed arch frames an infinity-edge pool and the golf course and mountain views beyond. LEFT: Kim turned functional elements into works of art in the powder room, sketching the designs of the hand-forged iron mirror and towel bar herself for a local artisan to make. "It's my favorite room in the whole house," she says.

ornate detailing on the edges is more in keeping with Southwestern style. The home's color palette is largely neutral, with a few splashes of muted blues in public rooms. "People often pull from the reds, oranges, and yellows that are natural to the desert, but we wanted to bring the blues of the Arizona sky into the home," Kim says. "The blue and natural tones of the wood tie together the French architectural influences."

While the home is meant for relaxation, the Scodros use that term loosely. "We have an active life here," Kim says. There's hardly a weekend the couple isn't casually entertaining family or friends. The modern floor plan—the living room, dining room, and kitchen

are essentially one large space, each defined by wide arched doorways—encourages mingling and conversation. And come the weekend, you'll find Kim whipping up batches of buttery madeleines and "baking, baking, and doing more baking." She loves when her kitchen gets a little crowded—her granddaughter painting at the big table and her son commandeering the cooktop on the six-burner French range. "We are in the kitchen constantly," Kim says. But wherever Kim is in the house, she is in her element. "You know how some things just feel comfortable to you?" she asks. "That's how French style feels to me." ❁