

# INTERIORS<sup>®</sup>

ART IN DESIGN





## DESERT MAJESTY

ARCHITECTURE: PHX ARCHITECTURE

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With one of the most iconic mountains in Arizona as a guide, architect Erik Peterson, founder of PHX Architecture, carefully sited a house in Phoenix so that views from certain rooms would be on axis with its peak. "It was surveyed and staked during the design to ensure it was perfect," Peterson says. "The axis alignment was almost exactly perpendicular to the slope of the site. Much like Frank Lloyd Wright's work, in our work we never build on top of the hill, but slightly below so that it is a part of the hillside and landscape."

The clients, a couple with two grown children and one at home, curated a museum-quality collection of art for the residence, and enlisted Donna Vallone for the interior design. Their philosophy and directive were clear: Showcase the artwork as in a museum, but maintain the comfort and functionality of a family home. The great room emphasizes this approach, where a chandelier by Hammerton creates a halo over the distant mountain, and modern sofas and club chairs rest on soft, sand-colored rugs from David E. Adler. Here, as well as in the kitchen and bath, ceiling recesses help guide the eye back to that peak. The interior palette is neutral, and pieces such as an engraved glass sink from Colorado-based maker Vitraform and Magni Home Collection's glass Carmel sconces ensure that the aesthetic stays firmly rooted in the West.

The home's low-slung horizontal roof planes and deep overhangs are not only a nod to the greats of the International Style movement, but they help protect both inhabitants and artwork from the searing desert sun. Big, colorful gestures are reserved strictly for the art and the outside world, in the form of bright blue and yellow pieces by Paola Lenti on the terrace, perfect for overlooking the landscaping by local firm Greey Pickett. "The client wanted a contemporary home similar to ones being built in L.A.—very different from those in Arizona," says Peterson. "There is a sophistication to the simplicity in the design as well as a stateliness to its formality." ■ *PHX Architecture, phxarch.com; Vallone, vallonedesign.com*