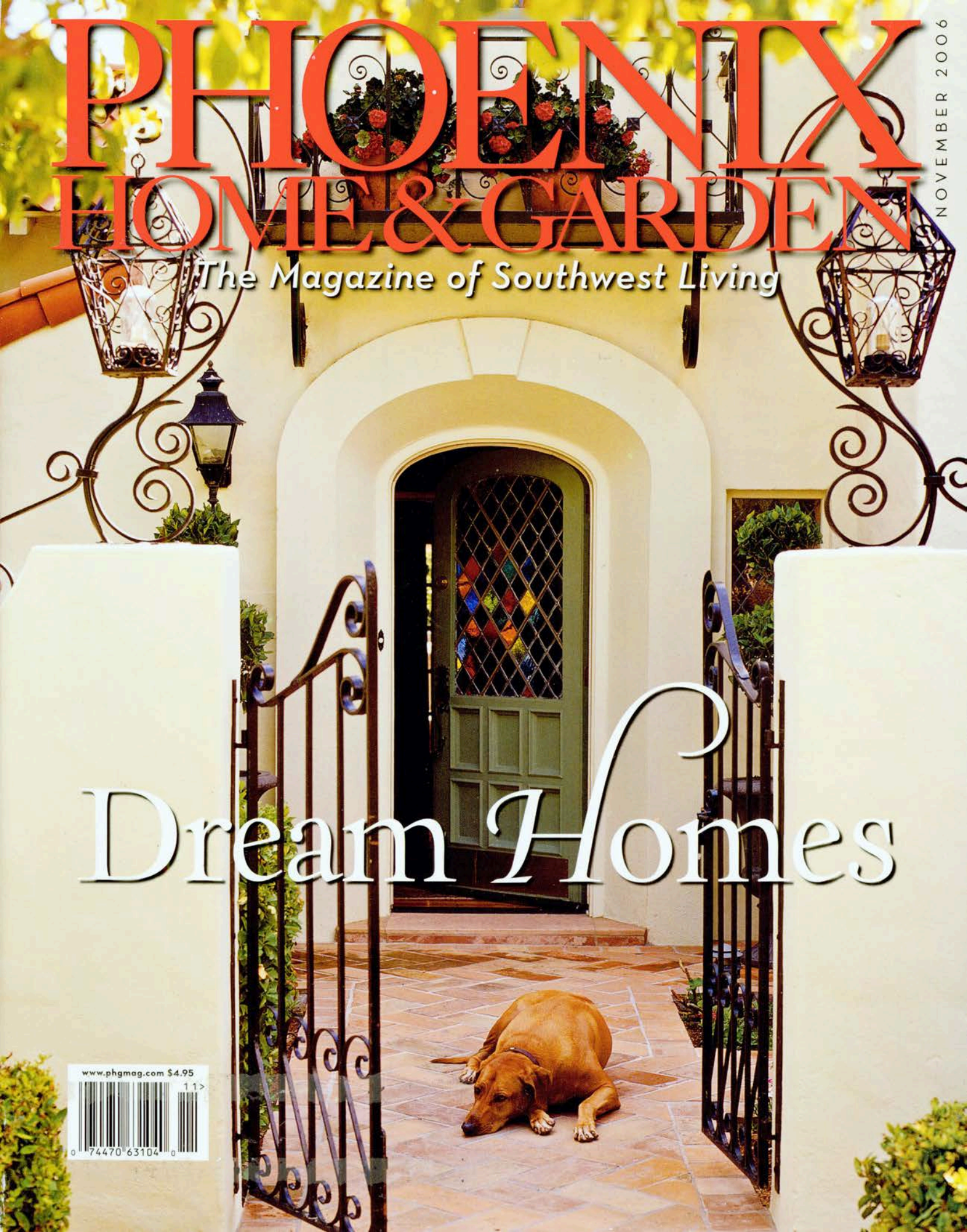




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Artfully Eclectic

New York meets old Arizona
in a playful desert house

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This page: Bidding visitors welcome are a cobbled drive made of half-bricks, lush plantings, and an entry courtyard accessed by rustic wooden gates within a cantera surround. **Opposite:** An entry hall, created during remodeling, is a mini gallery of art and curiosities, such as the painting of an Alaskan bear by Alvin Eli Amason and gleaming ceiling-hung mercury balls in silver and blue.





Daryl Weil remembers telling her husband, Chip, that nothing had to be done to the slump-block Territorial-style residence they bought in Paradise Valley, Ariz., 16 years ago. Its former owners had given the home tender, loving care.

"But I'm a *decorator*," Weil says, the meaning behind those few words instantly clear: How could this interior designer, with nearly three decades' worth of professional experience in the Northeast, not want to do some fixing up?

The savvy renovations that followed, treasures the couple brought to Arizona, and Weil's expertise and sense of fun will be evident to those who participate in this month's *Phoenix Home & Garden* Palette of Homes Dream Tour.

The property has undergone a series of face-lifts over time, with Weil as interior designer, Mike Higgins as remodel architect, and G.M. Hunt as building contractor. Among several renovation projects, a backyard patio was enclosed to become a dining room; a pool house was constructed; the kitchen and existing baths were remodeled and two new powder rooms added; a covered patio was created off the master bedroom; and an art studio and new garage were built where an unused tennis court once stood.

The structures form a close-knit group of buildings that has been described as a compound, a village and a courtyard, notes Higgins. He adds: "This home was a true collaboration and a fun experience. Daryl's unique flair for combining old things with new sets this house apart."

Before relocating to Paradise Valley, Weil and her husband, a third-generation newspaperman and former newspaper publisher, were living in Purchase, N.Y. Weil likes to say that they "purchased a bit of paradise" in their move out West, and calls their eclectic and cozy desert digs "New York Meets Old Arizona."

Against a backdrop of white walls and Mexican Saltillo tile flooring, the home's furnishings, accessories and artworks, many brought from New York and other locales, are a smart mix of

Contemporary and Traditional styles. With Weil's deft touch, antiques collected back East or handed down from family marry well with more recent acquisitions of Southwestern or Mexican origin. And everywhere, the mood is playful. In the sleek kitchen, for example, the feet seen at the base of a centerpiece island were cast in aluminum from Weil's own. With laughter, she recalls standing in a bucket of plaster for hours to get molds of her feet that were just right.

The patio-turned-dining room is a perfect indicator of Weil's personal style. "I wanted a house to be lived in and loved," she says. A long custom dining table topped with tiny colorful clay sculptures of Mexican taxis invites family gatherings. The Weils' four young grandchildren, when not at the table, can lounge in front of the fireplace on brightly hued beanbag chairs that have become an integral part of the room's decorating scheme.

With fine textiles, bought and inherited traditional furnishings and antiques, and Contemporary and period art, the living room, by contrast, has a more elegant salon look. Comfort reigns, however, in this space, and memories of other places and other times are plentiful. "Every piece has a story," Weil comments.

She looks forward to one more change in the home's design scheme. Soon, she will have to buy another beanbag chair, for a fifth grandbaby is on the way. □

This page: A sweeping backyard lawn leads to a new garage and an art studio, slump-block buildings that, like the main house, have exposed beams and wood trim painted turquoise. **Opposite:** Homeowner and interior designer Daryl Weil realized her vision of a large and casual dining room for gatherings with family and friends when a back patio was enclosed. She designed the drop-down "candelier" and the table. The painting over the mantel is by Richard Thomas; hung above what once was an outdoor fireplace is a work by Kurt Walters.



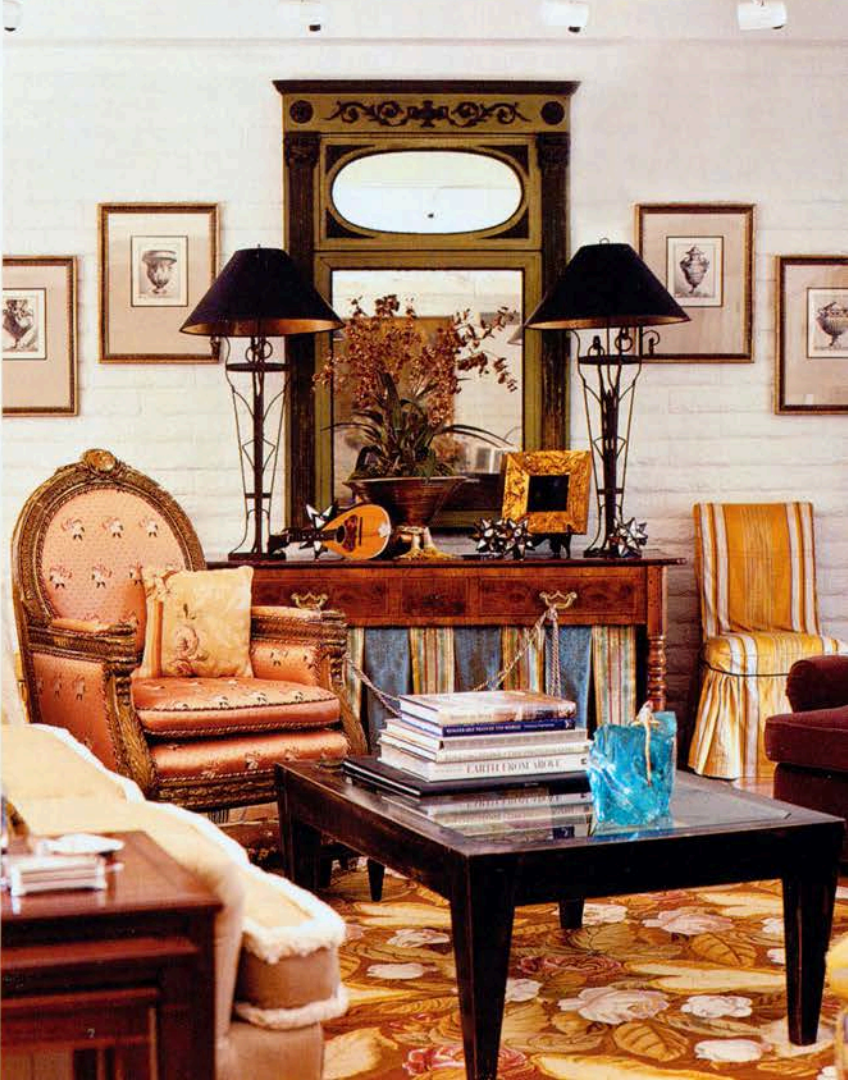
This page: Once the dining room, this corner of the living room is now the music area. Given to the homeowners by a friend, the large painting by Kathleen Morris is titled *Desert Rose*. "We've always called it 'Baby,'" Weil says. Like so many pieces, the ottoman came from the couple's former residence, in New York. "I recently re-covered it in that fabulous cut velvet from Fonthill Ltd.," Weil notes. **Opposite:** Painted on tin, a cherished image of St. Michael slaying the dragon is given a place of honor in a hallway niche.







This page, clockwise from top left: Aluminum models of Weil's feet poke out from under the kitchen's mahogany island. Cabinet doors are inset with stainless steel. The island's top is of concrete embedded with stainless steel shards. ■ A frog sculpture spouts water at pool's edge. ■ The living room is dressed in an eclectic blend of furnishings, art and accessories. In a house in which everything holds memories, Weil says, the mirror above the skirted console is a treasure she bought at a house sale in Harrison, N.Y. It is flanked by pairs of architectural prints. The carpet is Chinese needlepoint. **Opposite:** A family heirloom, the red chest is the focal point of this hallway vignette. The piece had belonged to Weil's husband's parents. "It reminds me of them—warm, fuzzy, fun," she says. The custom iron drapery rods are her design.







TRADE SECRETS

■ "Once a treasure, always a treasure," Daryl Weil says, noting that cherished pieces can survive several changes of residence and pick up new uses along the way. A console in her living room, for example, wears a skirt of striped damask. It was a buffet in the dining room of the Weils' first home, a desk in another house, and used as a buffet twice more before ending up as the focal point of a living room wall.

■ Being innovative can pay design dividends. When a standing screen did not meet Weil's expectations for blocking a dull corner, she fastened paintings and small sculptural cherubs to it, lending importance to both screen and corner.

■ "There are lots of ways people can decorate their homes without being a decorator," she says, pointing to today's plethora of catalogs. In her master bedroom, the bench at the foot of the bed is from the Horchow catalog, and a chest/nightstand is from Wisteria. Weil also found a petite silvery chair in the Wisteria catalog. It adds a graceful touch to the master bath.

This page, clockwise from top left: Weil is a firm believer that nice things travel well and can be put to good use. Bedding in a guest room is of snowy white matelassé and was used in the couple's New York master bedroom. The large photographic art piece over the bed is by Robert Stivers. ■ The remodeled master bath features a deep soaking tub and Carrara marble flooring. A tiny crystal chandelier casts a pretty pattern of light. ■ At the back of the house, potted blooms display showy color near a metal "vine" stairway post.



Etro paisley fabric was
used to upholster the
curvaceous headboard in
the master bedroom.

See Sources, Page 326.

