

Arizona Foothills

THE LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE FOR AFFLUENT DESERT LIVING



OUR 7th ANNIVERSARY

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Double the Pleasure

Born of a passion for the iconic Arizona Biltmore Resort, the home of Jack Seguin and Diane Bertrand resembles the hotel's younger, more intimate sibling. In fact, the home has become so near and dear to its owners' hearts, they've built a second one just like it.

BY ELIZABETH EXLINE PHOTOGRAPHY: DAVID ZILLY

"I'VE BEEN COMING TO ARIZONA since 1978," Jack Seguin says, "and I used to play tennis near the Arizona Biltmore." So when Seguin and Diane Bertrand decided to build a home in the area, they looked for an architect well-versed in Wright's unique aesthetic ("see sidebar). The couple presented Michael Higgins, principal of Higgins Architects, with the straightforward yet unusual task of building a house that embodies the aura of the Arizona Biltmore.

Sprawling across its triangular lot, the structure is bookended by the attached guesthouse on one end and Bertrand's office on the other. The doors are ingrained with the resort's Art Deco chevron pattern while exposed block columns, flush baseboards and

heavy window mullions are further evidence of the home's Biltmore ancestry.

Outside, Higgins used sturdy columns and extensive metal trellises to shade the home. "[The columns are] like the ridges on a cactus," Higgins says, "while the metal trellis extensions are like the needles that protect the 'meat,' in this case, the house." The homeowners approve, "One of the important things of this house was the way it was laid on the lot to see the sun," Seguin says. "Shade and sun were big features with Frank Lloyd Wright."

Upswept cherry paneled ceilings and extensive windows between heavy mullions open to pristine mountain preserves (opposite).



ARCHITECT / Mike Higgins, Higgins Architects
BUILDER / Dan Starkey, New Age Builders
INTERIOR DESIGNER / Dawn Wilkerson, Interiors MD
LANDSCAPING / Tim McGough, The McGough Group
44 BILTMORE ESTATES SQUARE FOOTAGE / 7,334
2816 E. OCATILLO SQUARE FOOTAGE / 7,000



JEWEL OF THE DESERT Sturdy columns and concrete block define this Biltmore Resort-inspired home (ABOVE). Rich wood cabinets accented with stainless steel lend a timeless aura (OPPOSITE).





POWDER ROOM PERFECTION Sandblasted glass, lit from below, provides a subdued sophistication (above).

Tinted concrete floors dominate the interiors with a dark brown stain incorpo-

to scale, while its sloped, inverted structure produces a butterfly effect.

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rating swirls and splashes of blue and gray. In the living room, the sweeping north and south window walls afford views of the mountain preserve and Downtown Phoenix. A cherry paneled ceiling treatment with stainless steel accents brings the room

Overall, the home provides these part-time Canadian residents a complete desert experience. Mountain views inspire them to hike, the nearby golf courses tempt them to play and the four-sided negative-edge pool provides Seguin incentive to soak in the sun.

Biltmore or Bust

***THE ARIZONA BILTMORE RESORT & SPA** is enchanting, luxurious and—contrary to popular belief—designed by the MacArthur brothers. However, Frank Lloyd Wright did serve as an advisor to the grand hotel's design.

Recently placed on the market, this month's homes are located at **44 BILTMORE ESTATES** and **2816 E. OCATILLO** and, at press time, listed for \$3,975,000 and \$3,300,000 respectively. Contact Suzanne Gammage with **GAMMAGE REALTY GROUP** at 480.456.9900 or www.buyazluxuryhomes.com for further details.

Most importantly, the house lets them live in every room.

Even the underground den, or kiva as the homeowners refer to it, gets a fair amount of use. "My thoughts on it were pretty simple," Seguin says. "It's where maybe a few fellows would have a cigar and a glass of wine or brandy and kick some business around." The kiva's hidden behind

free" to build, inspiring Seguin and Bertrand to construct a second version. The twin isn't a carbon copy—the lot is more resort-like with lush grass rather than mountainous terrain. Seguin and Bertrand also installed hardwood floors instead of concrete, used blocks with a darker taupe color and a wet bar was added under the staircase in lieu of a kiva.

Overall, the home provides these part-time Canadian residents a complete desert experience. Mountain views inspire them to hike, the nearby golf courses tempt them to play and the four-sided negative-edge pool provides Seguin incentive to soak in the sun. Most importantly, the house lets them live in every room.

a blind door panel below the main staircase, where steps descend into a small room equipped with a large plasma TV. Doors on each side of the television open to a wet bar and bathroom, but the real surprise is along the rear wall, where a wine room is hidden.

Intricate as the house is, it was "trouble

And just as both home's materials mimic those of the Biltmore, so does its most critical ingredient. "The houses have the same sense of permanence that the Biltmore has," Higgins says. "And you don't always get that out of structures." In today's throwaway culture, that is rare—and valuable—indeed. **Q**