



From left: In the living room, the matching arched niches begin a pairing theme, which continues with wood chests by Noir Furniture and Light & Living nickel-base pedestal lamps fitted with cowhide drum shades; the one-story modern Mediterranean home suggests a second floor by way of intersecting pitched portal and roof ridges, with contrasting square and arched clerestory banks.



SERENE *Sophistication*

Former devotees of traditional design, the homeowners requested a more transitional/modern interior for their new Mediterranean-style home in Paradise Valley.

*By David M. Brown
Photography by DRufer Photography LLC*

“The owners wanted a sophisticated home yet one offering both a sense of contemporary ease and timeless elegance for entertaining friends and family,” says Raegan Ford (raeganford.com), whose Scottsdale interior design firm began working with her clients on materials and furnishings midway through the build.

Completed last year on 2 acres, the one-story custom home includes 5,250 square feet of livable space in the five-bedroom main house, plus a one-bedroom guest house.

Inside, Ford called for subtle grays and whites on the walls and custom alder cabinetry, as well as sesame oak wide-plank floors for the timeless warmth of wood throughout the main living areas.

Against this soft backdrop, statement-making furniture, accessories, standout lighting and soft abstract artwork provide drama and pizzazz. In addition, she mixed design elements and textures and inserted color pops for more surprise.

“The walls are a blank canvas to bring meaning and presence to the furnishings,” Ford explains. “Yet even with the definitive furniture, a sense of serenity flows throughout the house with the mix of textures and quiet color.”

« *Their new home is modern and simplified, and its mix of design elements give it the elegance and timelessness they envisioned from the start.* »

— RAEGAN FORD, INTERIOR DESIGNER »



From left: The powder room, finished in an elegant white and gray palette, features a short-legged granite-topped cabinet from Kitchen Bath Collection and a scallop-edged mirror from Uttermost; the kitchen, with custom millwork by Mountain View Custom Cabinets, has warmly contrasting oak planking, and a drum-shade chrome and crystal chandelier by Kichler Lighting.

Throughout, the furnishings are uncomplicated yet impactful. For instance, in the family room, which expands out to the back slide-pool area through three-quarter floor-to-ceiling collapsible window walls, the print blue wingback chair contrasts with the neutral palette exemplified by the sofa and a duet of matching armchairs. Pillows and table accessories add more color punch. And, to signature the home, she acquired an abacus for the west wall, marking that both owners are accountants by background.

For the dining room, Ford upholstered the chairs in a modern geometric design that plays against the flooring, the gray walls and the focal-point black metal display cabinets.

And, illuminating the kitchen island, a multilamp chandelier finished in chrome and crystal infuses glam amid the classic white palette, marble backsplash, white and warm

gray quartzite countertops and, in the adjacent breakfast room, the lattice-back chairs and wood trestle table. And, upholstered with a soft blue-green diamond pattern fabric, the kitchen bar stools are an invitation to join the cook.

In the living room, she juxtaposed a classic sofa with matching midcentury-modern leather sling armchairs on a wool rug. Curvaceous mirrors sit above textured wood chests and flank the fireplace, providing different geometric and natural elements. In a soft palette, the abstract artwork, “Sound of Flute,” continues the color contrast.

Ford enjoys coordinating vintage design elements with classic and modern pieces. “The softness of color and texture in this living room,” she says, “provide the perfect opportunity to showcase the beautiful midcentury-modern chairs.”



In the family room, the blue Ikat wingback chair, from CR Laine, forms a vignette with a table from Mercana and hanging abacus from Pottery Barn.

Modern and simplified, the dining room offers bold black metal display cabinets from Four Hands, showcasing the varying shapes, sizes, colors and textures of the family’s serving pieces, glass and porcelain.





Rough-sawn cedar beams affirm the indoor-outdoor window wall frame in the expansive family room.



From top: The traditional breakfast room trestle table is by Restoration Hardware and the pattern chairs from Stanley Furniture; blue, white and rose accent pillows against the subtle family-room sofa reaffirm a design theme in the Paradise Valley home.

She also worked sensitively with the architectural elements in the home, especially its many arches, which frame the entry doorway and characterize some of the home's windows and passages.

In the family room, for example, the cabinetry flanking the hearth is arch-topped, echoing the openings in the room and on the covered patio just beyond, and the chandelier cleverly repeats these curves in a downward fashion. The dual living room mirrors emphasize the arched niches while adding modern elegance. So, too, in the dining room: The display cabinets have radiused tops, reiterating the large entry wall arch and the hallway and kitchen arches.

"My clients are very much at home here and very happy," Ford says. "Their new home is modern and simplified, and its mix of design elements give it the elegance and timelessness they envisioned from the start."

