



FRESH START



Homeowners Shirley and Gordon Cerrudo opted to leave the wide expanses of glass in their house free of window coverings. Designer Linda Seeger infused interiors with a bold, nature-inspired palette dominated by blue. In the great room, bright whites found in furnishings, wall paint and the kitchen's dining island provide contrast. Flooring throughout is composed of two types of quartzite that have silvery-blue tones.

A Desire for Clean Lines and Natural Materials Drives the Design of a Custom Arizona Home

BY SUSAN REGAN ■ PHOTOGRAPHY BY ART HOLEMAN

SHIRLEY AND GORDON CERRUDO can quickly list the pieces of furniture they brought with them when they moved into their north Scottsdale home: two beds, two white lawn chairs and a card table.

The couple decided to start fresh with this house, the first they have had custom-designed and built. Consequently, it speaks to their interests, tastes and personalities—a Contemporary Southwest residence filled with natural materials and vibrant colors that reflect the surrounding desert.

After purchasing a lot offering both city and mountain views, the homeowners set about choosing a design team, which includ-

ed architect Bing Hu, interior designer Linda Seeger and builder Platinum Homes.

The couple knew from the outset that a few key elements needed to be incorporated into the dwelling. "We didn't want a traditional Southwest house. We wanted something Contemporary and modern," recalls Gordon. Shirley says another item on their wish list was a strong indoor/outdoor connection. Hu's resulting design features expanses of floor-to-ceiling windows and glass doors, multiple patios and a rooftop deck for viewing sunsets.

A slate of natural materials, including quartzite flooring, a wood-plank ceiling in the kitchen/great room and a stone-clad



fireplace wall with copper accents, helps bring the outdoors in. "Shirley and Gordon wanted something earthy and simplistic—very clean with natural materials," states Seeger. She used this backdrop to highlight a vibrant color scheme anchored with shades of blue. The idea for a blue-focused palette was inspired by the Cerrudos' love of the outdoors and Arizona's expansive sky. "Blue is so relaxing," notes Shirley. "It's a feel-good color for us."

From sapphire to navy to cobalt, blues are prevalent throughout; Seeger blended various tones for visual variation. "It's fun to mix blues and make them a focal point. It's a really livable color." For example, the powder bath features a bright-blue glass vessel

sink; navy, cobalt and ice-blue tiles in the shower; and silver-toned wallpaper with sky-blue threads.

Seeger added contrast with bright whites and reds. "The beauty is the combination of colors and materials together that make it warm," she says.

After initially moving in with only five items in tow, the Cerrudos spent the following summer in California and let Seeger "work her magic" to complete the home. Upon returning, Shirley says she and her husband were in awe. "We like color and we like bright color," she comments. "Our home captures the sunshine, outdoors and the happy feel that we love." ■



Left: In the kitchen, Linda Seeger incorporated shades of red. Lacquered maple wood cabinets have a reddish tone and bar stools are upholstered in red Ultrasuede. The dining island is topped with a slab of sandblasted blue-painted glass; granite on the remaining countertops has blue veining. The ceramic tile backsplash has the look of stainless steel.

Above: A vertically laid decorative tile band adds a graphic element to the powder room shower.



Multiple seating areas in the backyard take full advantage of views. Landscape designer Ryan LaMarca surrounded red-tinged firestick plants in ceramic pots with green glass chips to complement the blue palette.

See Sources.

