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MOUNTAINSIDE MARVEL

Modern ideas distinguish a magnificent makeover

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The expansive patio, or “Skybar,” at this Phoenix home, which is built on the side of Camelback Mountain, offers spectacular views of city lights. The outdoor theater features a built-in acrylic screen, ample seating, and a glass floor lit from below with color-changing LED lights. Architect Christy Wareing notes that the floor is an example of the collaborative effort the remodel team employed to complete the renovation.

BEFORE (see AFTER photograph, previous pages)



Architect Christy Wareing, AIA, found the right angle for a mountainside remodel located in the heart of Phoenix.

The Scottsdale-based architect incorporated geometric design elements and angles throughout Eric Crown's revamped 7,600-square-foot multilevel home perched on the south side of Camelback Mountain. Today, the 15-year-old four-bedroom Modern-style residence offers striking features both indoors and out.

Shortly after Crown purchased the home in 2004, a team consisting of Wareing, builder Jerry Meek and landscape designer Jeff Berghoff began an extensive renovation. Also contributing their expertise were home-automation specialist Rand Arnold and lighting designer Kevin J. Flower. The work, completed in less than a year, included decreasing the number of levels in the house from nine to seven.

Although well-sited, the original home was ill-suited for its owner—a bachelor with a penchant for entertaining. “The interior was dated, views were blocked, and some of the spaces he just didn’t need,” says Wareing, who removed, for example, the formal dining room. “The house looked like a scene right out of *Miami Vice*, with turquoise handrails everywhere.” The architect also remembers that glass block walls could be found throughout.

“In fact,” she recalls, “the only good point was the existing angles. So we kept the overall footprint and changed most everything else.” A few of these changes included adding an angled gallery wall

adjacent to a redesigned stairwell and a multi-angled front entryway off the motor court. Motorized and pocketed floor-to-ceiling sliding doors were installed in the great room and enlarged master suite, opening these spaces to panoramic views. Throughout the residence, partial walls of sandblasted glass now provide filtered light while also offering privacy.

Another issue was an interior lap pool, which extended from the home’s entry to a smallish master bedroom suite. “The pool created humidity and ate up square footage,” the architect recalls. “So we moved it outside where it belongs.”

A new pool with three negative edges (complete with underwater speakers), plus a spa and a fire pit, all designed by Berghoff, were built on a large patio that wraps around the side of the house. With ample seating and an alfresco theater, this space creates an expansive entertainment area. The theater features a screen on an exterior wall and a 2-inch-thick LED-embedded glass floor. “The LEDs can change color at various speeds, flash, rotate—pretty much do anything you can think of,” says Flower.

From Contemporary-style interiors and design elements to outdoor spaces that maximize the mountainside setting, this remodeled home exemplifies the possibilities that Modern design can offer. “Together as a team, we expressed the idea that Modern doesn’t have to be cold, harsh and uninviting,” Wareing notes. “What I think we produced was a showpiece that is warm, comfortable and definitely inviting.” □

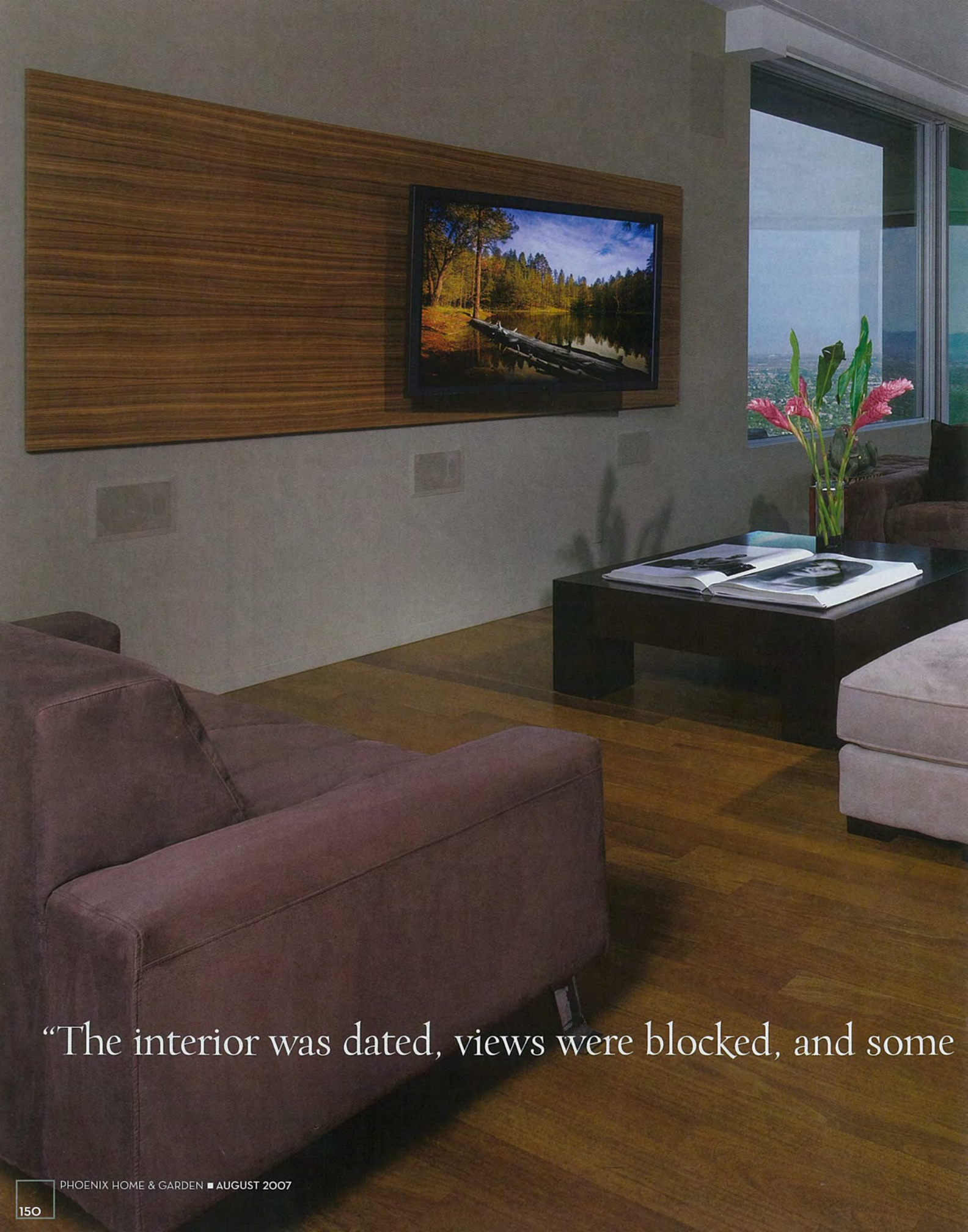


BEFORE

Initially, Wareing wanted to devise a staircase surrounded by tall windows to access the upstairs bedrooms; but, ultimately, the remodel team opted for a floating design of powder-coated steel plate with matching treads and glass side-rail panels. At the top of the stairs, the architect created a large picture window offering views of the mountain begun in the window below.



AFTER



“The interior was dated, views were blocked, and some



of the spaces he just didn't need”

While homeowner Eric Crown likes his spaces open and light-filled and his furnishings sleek and uncluttered, he enjoys details such as the Brazilian teak flooring, seen here in the great room. Complementing the Contemporary style is a flat-screen TV mounted on a rectangular wood panel. Glass pocket doors seamlessly join the area to the deck, reinforcing the home's indoor/outdoor connection.



This page: Lighting designer Kevin Flower created several visual focal points throughout the house, including a backlit mosaic panel in the powder room that matches a panel in the hallway of the master suite. A porcelain vessel sink sits atop a floating vanity. **Opposite:** The new pool area is situated just steps from the master bedroom and is accessible through sliding pocket doors. The triangular room features a wall over the bed containing a multicolor LED display that lights up a plaster wave panel designed by the homeowner.







This page: Renovation of the home's former dark, dated kitchen resulted in a minimalist Modern space. Among details are a glass tile backsplash, an island with dining bar, and cabinets of zebra wood. Light filters in through a slotted skylight. **Opposite:** The original formal dining room was eliminated and an open dining area with bistro-style table and stools substituted. Flooring is Zamora Gold Brazilian travertine.

See Sources.

