

## SPANISH CLASS

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WHEN INTERIOR DESIGNER DANA LYON OF PARADISE VALLEY'S PALM DESIGN GROUP EMBARKED UPON A PARTICULARLY SUBJECTIVE DESIGN VENTURE—THE RESIDENCE SHE SHARES WITH HER HUSBAND, SCOTT FEY—SHE KNEW THE PROJECT WOULD NECESSITATE A GOOD AMOUNT OF RESEARCH. "One of our main goals was to have a sense of historical accuracy for what Spanish Colonial architecture represented," she recalls. "Authenticity was important." So Lyon headed to Guadalajara, Mexico, where she immersed herself in native architecture. In communities where vast, open-air patios are frequent, the concept of marrying indoor and outdoor living struck a chord with the designer. "Seeing how materials were used was really helpful. And I realized the importance of integrating the exteriors and interiors. It was easy to translate to our project."

**INTERIOR DESIGNER** Dana Lyon, Palm Design Group

**ARCHITECT** Mark Candelaria, AIA, Candelaria Design Associates

**BUILDER** Jerry Meek, Desert Star Construction

**BEDROOMS** 4 | **BATHROOMS** 5 | **SQUARE FEET** 5,000







**LION'S PRIDE**  
Lyon commissioned a Mexican artist to hand-carve the lion shield above the Cantera stone gate in the entry courtyard. The old French pavers on the landing were a gift from the builder.



**FRENCH FLAIR**

Waterworks cream herringbone tile on the backsplash lends an antique feel to the kitchen, as do the old French vinegar bottles that sit above the sink.

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The designer's natural intuition helped, too. "You can hone in on the best of class quickly," says Lyon, who assembled a team of local visionaries—including Phoenix architect Mark Candelaria, AIA, of Candelaria Design Associates and builder Jerry Meek of Desert Star Construction in Scottsdale—whose work she had followed throughout the years. "We did a complete rebuild, but kept the existing footprint," Candelaria says of the lot's previous ranch-style hacienda. Since height restrictions prevented the new structure from exceeding 24 feet, Candelaria designed a flat roof



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so that the extra height could be utilized in the southwest-end master suite. "By building up the master bedroom, we were really able to capture and enhance the views of the surrounding Camelback Mountains," he says.

Functionality was a constant consideration. "The house just works well," says Meek. "From the patio to the lawn and pool areas, every inch of the property is utilized, and the house speaks the same language throughout." The front courtyard creates a "buffer" from the street and establishes the tone of the Paradise Valley home, as do reclaimed Mexican doors at the entry. Each room throughout the clean, horizontal floor plan has doors that lead to the exterior, granting virtually unrestricted access to the outdoors.

#### REVEALED HISTORY

In the library, Saltillo tile flooring gives the room a sense of heritage. The ottoman is covered in ivory crocodile pleather for durability; the surrounding chairs are by Henredon.



**EVENING GLOW**

The square stucco pillars on the back patio are a simplified version of a Spanish Colonial column. Lyon found the iron lanterns that line the pathway on a trip to Morocco.



**WINE AND DINE**

Lyon designed many of the custom-made dining room pieces, including the wine storage cabinet and dining chairs, covered in Opuzen velvet. The antique verdure tapestry is from On the Veranda, a local shop.



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To accommodate the homeowners' frequent roles as hosts, the back patio space is open, welcoming guests with a spacious layout and numerous seating areas.

For her part, Lyon stayed true to the Spanish Colonial aesthetic she'd envisioned early on, merging it with a sophisticated European flair. "In Europe, they build practical, working kitchens, and I wanted ours to have that same feeling," says the designer, who maximized the open flow of the space with a wide island constructed in durable mesquite wood. "There is plenty of surface area for people to work on and gather around," she adds.

#### **DREAM ON**

Cream French damask hangs as a backdrop behind the master bed, which is covered in custom-designed bedding by Lyon. The vanity is an old Italian desk.



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Many of the interior components have a past: Lyon hand-picked all of the reclaimed Spanish, Mexican and English doors throughout the home; and wood flooring from old East Coast wheat factories, its character and worn-in quality inherent, is the focal point of the living room. Antiques dot the residence indoors and out, from an antique Italian vanity in the master bedroom to the old deer antlers that adorn the patio wall. The primarily neutral palette, a mix of warm rusts inspired by Mexican Saltillo tile, and bright accents in the blues and greens of desert flora,





**GUEST QUARTERS**

Olive trees flank the guest house, which Lyon styled to be more contemporary, using light blue tile throughout and metal doors and windows for added durability. "It's just a really relaxing, light-filled area," she says.

#### STYLE SELECTION

Featuring an intricate wooden lattice design under a glass top, this table is formed from mahogany, cherry and rosewood. *Lima Lattice Coffee Table*, \$6,790; [davidfrancisfurniture.com](http://davidfrancisfurniture.com)



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references the natural surroundings. "I like color paired with neutrals," explains Lyon. "It shows off the antiques and highlights the finishes better, allowing the eye to adjust. Each room has a nice color transition."

Since the initial design, Lyon has updated several rooms, transforming the home into a soothing retreat that the couple has cultivated as their own. "That is what you really want to achieve with residential architecture—a place that you can share with your family and friends," she attests. "We feel lucky to be here." **L**





**STONE'S THROW**  
The fireplace is lined with French limestone pavers, while the Cantera stone fireplace surround was hand-carved in Mexico. The coffee table is from Antique Designs in Los Angeles.