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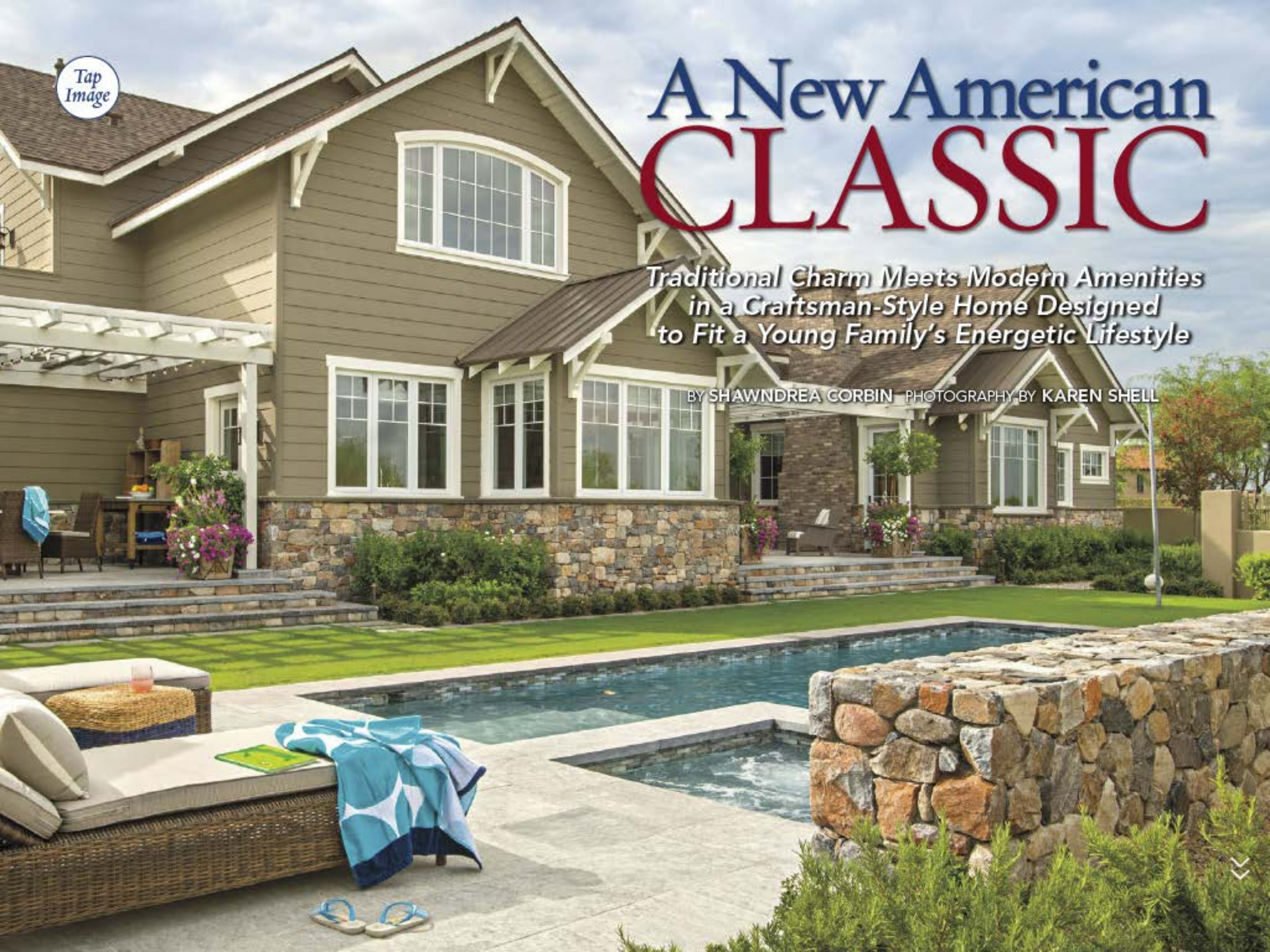
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A New American CLASSIC

*Traditional Charm Meets Modern Amenities
in a Craftsman-Style Home Designed
to Fit a Young Family's Energetic Lifestyle*

BY SHAWNDRÉA CORBIN PHOTOGRAPHY BY KAREN SHELL



I**IF YOU ASK TWINS RACHEL AND STELLA WHAT'S** missing from their new home, their answer is swift: "A zip-line from the roof to the pool!"

The 8-year-olds also want a trampoline, adds their mom Ali Zimmerman, although neither heart-stopping feature will come to be on her careful watch. Aside from the lack of a backyard adventure center, the homeowner admits, "It's difficult for us to stay in a hotel anymore because this house fits us so perfectly."

The residence, an enchanting Craftsman-style affair, appears to be plucked straight out of Phoenix's historic Arcadia neighborhood thanks to its traditional facade. Complete with a low-pitched gabled roof, tapered columns and stone accents, its casual bungalow style gels surprisingly well with its surrounding North Scottsdale neighborhood because it was designed to meet the strict building guidelines of the desert community.

While many of their friends and family tried to dissuade Ali and her husband, Mike, from building a new home, doing so proved to be the logical choice for their family. "We looked and looked and looked and even con-





"I love this kitchen so much," exclaims homeowner Ali Zimmerman. The cheerful space features Shaker-style cabinetry, linen-covered bar stools and a Dutch door that dog Hannah often uses.

sidered remodeling, but in the end it seemed pointless to buy a house that we didn't like the layout of," Ali explains. "I wanted to get the flow just right and have everything organized exactly the way we wanted it to be."

To achieve their goal, Ali and Mike enlisted an all-star design team composed of architect Don Ziebell, interior designers Inga Rehmann and Linda Criswell, builder Jerry Meek and landscape designer Jeff Berghoff.

Taking cues from the family's beloved vacation home in San Diego, Rehmann worked closely with the owners to determine the desired ambience of the home. She outfitted the interior with French oak flooring throughout, soft linen furnishings and incandescent mosaic tiling in the kitchen, bathrooms and laundry room. "Durability was a huge factor when it came to selecting the furnishings," says Rehmann. "Ali wanted materials that were easy to clean but also looked great."

Helping with furniture and accessory selections, Criswell tied everything together with a refreshing zeal. "This is a young and vibrant family that enjoys a casual lifestyle," she notes. "This home reflects those tastes."

Criswell used the homeowners' penchant for blue as a jumping-off point, mixing and matching varying hues of the color. In the living room, for example, plush pil-



Scuppers in the pool introduce the ambient sound of splashing water to the yard, which backs up to a natural wash. "We supplemented trees into the wash to add privacy for the family," says Berghoff.

lows and decorative accents exhibit shades ranging from deep cobalt to whispery light blue. A neutral colored sisal rug and linen curtains as well as weathered-wood furniture serve as a rustic backdrop and allow the watery color to shine.

In the kitchen, *Phoenix Home & Garden* Masters of the Southwest award winner Ziebell, "nailed" his design for an open yet separate layout, says Ali, where details include a glittery mosaic-tiled backsplash, Shaker-style cabinetry, marble countertops and a quaint Dutch door that leads to a patio. The room recently served as a sweet scene where the girls baked a cake for their grandfather's 75th birthday.



Fun surprises are found in nearly every room. According to Meek, many of the home's clever features were brought to the table by Ali. He points to two tiny archways cut into cabinets located in the laundry room and mudroom. The clever cut-outs (one in the shape of a cat's face) allow the family's felines—S'more and Theo—to discreetly enter and exit the litterboxes hidden within. "We didn't leave





ABOVE AND LEFT: The great room is the hub of the house, with both public and private spaces adjoining it. Traditional touches like the paneled and painted ceiling, divided glass windows and doors, and wood floors look fresh when paired with cleaned-lined furnishings and a blue- and-neutral palette.



Hannah [the dog] behind either,” Meek adds. “She has her own cabinet for food and water, which also conceals her food supply.”

Another special feature is a secret laundry shoot located in an upstairs closet shared by the twins; it saves Ali an untold number of trips up and down the stairs. Referred to as the “girls’ apartment,” the home’s upper floor comprises two bedrooms, bathrooms and a shared den. Each bedroom features a loft above the bed that’s accessible only by ladder, a design decision that Ali says she was outvoted on three to one. She admits that adding them was a good decision in the end because the girls absolutely love them. A separate closet in each room connects to the other via a secret passageway. The small den provides a parent-free space for the girls to hang out and play with their Legos and American Girl dolls.

Capiz-shell pendants give a dressed-up feel to the dining room, which features a mix of new and midcentury furniture. Concealed by a sliding door, the pantry is accessible by both this space and the kitchen.



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The master bathroom literally sparkles as white and iridescent tilework reflects incandescent and natural light. Repeating the floor's circle-on-circle design in the shower adds visual interest without creating visual clutter.

Adjacent to the den is a gallery wall that showcases pictures of the family's favorite beaches and includes maps, seaside photos and boardwalk caricatures of Stella and Rachel. "The girls were really involved in the process of designing this area," says Ali.

A French door next to the staircase landing opens to a small stretch of flat roof, across which is the entrance to an inviting guest bedroom and bath. Ali loves the suite even though it sees less use than originally expected. "Wouldn't you know it, not long after we moved here both my and Mike's parents moved to Arizona!" she says with a laugh.

Another of her favorite spots is the front porch located just off of the dining room. Glazed doors open to this much-used space for seamless indoor-outdoor living. "There's some great furniture on the porch, and when our parents come over that is where they like to sit," says Ali. Originally, the owners were unsure wheth-



This is a young and vibrant family that enjoys a casual lifestyle, and this home reflects those tastes.

—Linda Criswell, interior designer



er or not to even have a formal dining room. Now, they are glad they do. “We actually use it a lot,” Ali says.

As for Mike, his favorite room is the blue den, where he likes to watch football with his father. “It’s sort of a man cave but way nicer and with style, which is the way it should be,” jokes Ali.

From the tranquil master bedroom downstairs that’s “just the right size” to the perfectly sited doors

and windows that let in copious amounts of natural lighting and refreshing breezes, family, friends and designers alike agree that the home is a perfect fit for the Zimmermans.

During the build, the family buried a time capsule beneath the site. It holds precious stories and mementos of their past. As for their future, their new custom-fit home is guaranteed to create many happy memories. 🏡



The den's dark graphite-colored walls create a cozy, retreatlike atmosphere that contrasts with the light, open sensibility of the rest of the house.





LEFT: Rachel, who hates the color pink, chose shades of blue and green for her cool, contemporary bedroom. "She's really artistic and is into music and theater," says her mom. Tall wainscoting makes a nice perch for soccer trophies and other treasures.

ABOVE: Stella had a hand in selecting the color palette and design of her bedroom, too. "She likes to skateboard and plays most sports. Stella also loves her pets and is a great builder," says Ali. Each of the girls' bedrooms also features its own ensuite bathroom.





“It’s difficult for us to stay in a hotel anymore because this house fits us so perfectly.”

—Ali Zimmerman, homeowner

Shades of blue seen inside the house continue outside onto a patio in the form of plush all-weather pillows. A woven ottoman provides extra seating for visiting neighbors who stop to chat.





ABOVE: Twins Rachel (left) and Stella relax on the lawn with their dog, Hannah. The family recently marked the one-year anniversary of their move into the custom-built, picture-perfect home.

LEFT: "When you walk up the stairs to the front door of this house, you get to take in the garden, essentially leaving the street and neighborhood behind you," says Berghoff. "But you never really forget that you are in the desert, either, because the rock details are made of native stone from the site."