

PHOENIX HOME & GARDEN

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COOL

A dated
Arizona
home
becomes
a Modern
gem

CONVERSION



TEXT BY SUE BREIDING ■ PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTIAAN BLOK

The light-filled living room of this remodeled home features a neutral color palette. Interior designer Christopher Coffin says he kept the hues understated so that the original natural rock-clad fireplace wall became the focal point. "There is such a beautiful view from here, and the old stone adds a cozy feel to the Contemporary space," notes homeowner June Reilly.





One of the last steps in remodeling June and Tim Reilly's decades-old Carefree, Ariz., residence was changing the exterior paint color from a muted palo verde green to a sophisticated mink brown. One might call this switch a metaphor for the transformation of the home from outdated to Modern marvel.

June had inherited the 1960s Contemporary-style hillside dwelling from her parents. She and Tim subsequently hired architect Jim McBride, builder Steve Bates and interior designer Christopher Coffin to modernize and beautify it, and to do so without losing its Contemporary flavor.

The homeowners and design team decided to gut the interior, which was in dire need of repair, and preserve the original frame in order to maintain the structure's clean lines and strong indoor/outdoor connection. The objective also was to improve the floor plan. Recalls Bates: "The kitchen was a little mouse maze." And McBride notes, "You walked through a bedroom to get into the master bedroom."

The transformation took nine months. "We made it literally new with modern electrical wiring and plumbing, and we restructured the roof," says the builder. The team also filled in the indoor

pool, which Tim remembers as "an accident waiting to happen," creating an area for both a formal dining room indoors and an adjacent covered living area outdoors. They also tore down walls in the "mouse maze" kitchen, once comprised of three cramped rooms, and changed it into a gourmet cook's dream space.

Underfoot, new travertine flooring replaced worn shag carpet, and the removal of outdated colored glass and brass lighting made way for inset halogen bulbs. Painting the exterior a rich brown and interiors white and soft caramel were among finishing touches. And, lastly, fine furnishings and lovely textiles, such as an Italian

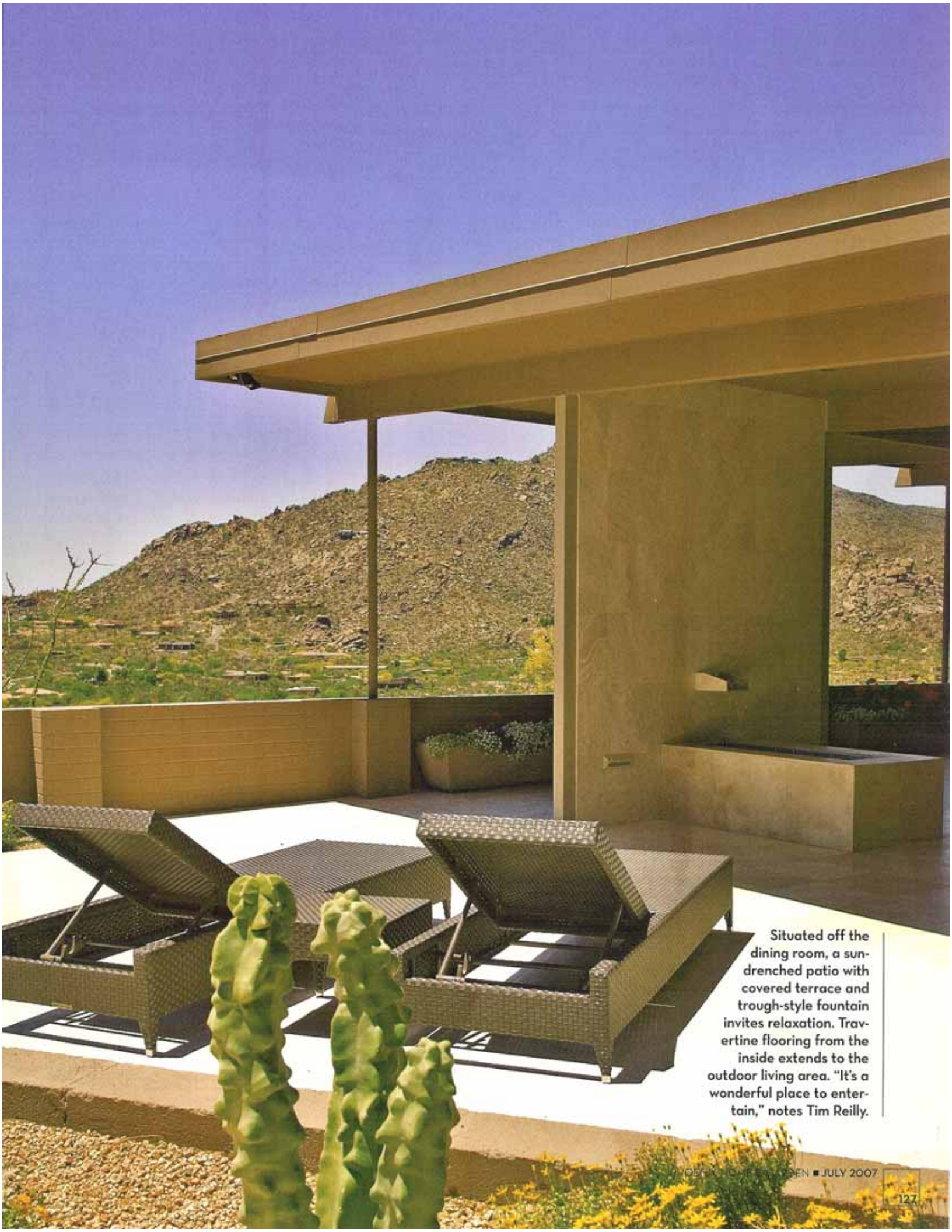
duvet fashioned from hand-painted fabric, filled the revamped rooms.

The Reillys enjoy many things about their old-home-made-new, but they will tell you the best part is living in flowing interior spaces surrounded by glass walls and large windows. "Standing in the living room in the evening, you can look right through the house and see the glow of the whole home," June remarks. "It's beautiful." □

Sue Breeding hosts the Home Sweet Home segment of KTVK's Good Morning Arizona on Wednesdays at 7:45 a.m.

Above: An indoor pool originally existed where the dining room and covered patio now are located. Slipcovered Parsons-style chairs flank the sides of a glass-topped rectangular table, while two armchairs sit at the ends.

Jade Buddhas that once belonged to June's parents perch on a console table with a fossil-stone top.



Situated off the dining room, a sun-drenched patio with covered terrace and trough-style fountain invites relaxation. Travertine flooring from the inside extends to the outdoor living area. "It's a wonderful place to entertain," notes Tim Reilly.

This page: This hallway has long, narrow windows that reflect the curve of the wall. Following the path of the windows are four wedge-shape steps. The chair is an 18th-century antique from China. **Opposite:** The master bathroom is fitted with shiny subway tile topped with glass blocks. The sleek look continues with a vanity that features a glossy finish.









Opposite, top left: The revamped kitchen sparkles with sophistication. The countertops and backsplash are limestone; the cabinetry is alder. A wood stretcher table and grouping of stools divide the space from the living area. **Opposite left:** Slate covers the walls of the powder room, while a green Royal Danby marble from Vermont clads the vanity. **Above:** This guest bedroom origi-

nally offered access to the master suite through a curtain divider. Coffin explains that he wanted to transform the space into an area that would make guests feel as if they were staying in a luxury hotel. He accomplished this ambience through a soothing color scheme, an uncluttered design, and rich-toned wood furnishings upholstered in elegant fabrics. See Sources.