



Southwest Celebration

A Santa Fe-style home
radiates casual beauty

Text by Teresa O'Neil

A meandering staircase leads to the master bedroom. Tiles used in the kitchen are repeated here on the risers.



A two-way fireplace covered with integrally colored plaster is the true heart of the home. Old doors found in Santa Fe conceal a television. Because the homeowners wanted a house with character, kitchen cabinetry was distressed for an aged look, and ceiling beams in the great room were painted with several layers of color. "The tricky part about making something imperfect is that you have to make it perfect first, then go back and 'de-perfect' it," says builder Pat Brady. "In doing so, you have to approach it gradually, because you can never go backward to perfect again."



This page: A tapestry-covered chair lends a touch of femininity to the grouping of leather dining chairs, according to interior designer Marieann Green-Seeger. Custom details in the room include a *latilla*-front cabinet, and an iron curtain rod, tie-backs and light fixture.

Opposite, top: Small but full of grand-scale impact, the entry features a ceiling of *latillas* and large crossbeams, a door and tumbled marble "rug" designed by Green-Seeger, and a custom lantern by Bruce Eicher.

Opposite, bottom: Chinese mulberry paper studded with *clavos* covers walls in the powder room, with metal wainscoting separating the two bold colors. A *nahalu*, or spirit table, from Guatemala serves as the vanity.



For some people, perfect means anything orderly, precise, new or unmarred. For Bucky and Hillary Zimmerman, imperfect is perfect.

The Santa Fe-style home they built in north Scottsdale is a testament to that notion and to everything they have come to admire about this region. “We’ve spent a lot of time in the Southwest and have grown attached to it,” says Bucky. “Our idea was to build a house that felt authentic rather than manufactured.”

“Santa Fe is my favorite place in the world,” Hillary offers. “When I’m there I feel like it’s where I belong. I’ve tried to re-create it somewhat with this house.”

When asked to describe that special Southwest something, the adjectives come easily for these former full-time Minnesotans. Words like relaxed, casual, colorful, warm, comfortable and friendly describe their impressions of places, houses, and things imbued with the character that comes with age.

Architect Tamara Pohle drew up plans for the Zimmermans that incorporated elements of traditional Santa Fe design, including a large central living and gathering space surrounded by smaller, cozier, private rooms. Windows capture light and mountain views, and patios positioned outside each public and private space encourage indoor/outdoor living, one of the trademarks of life in the Southwest.

“All the patios have specific uses,” notes Pohle. “They are separate but interconnected. And inside, even though there is this grand central space with lofty ceilings, there are intimate spaces as well.” Built in bancos placed here and there, for example, are ideal for curling up with a good book.

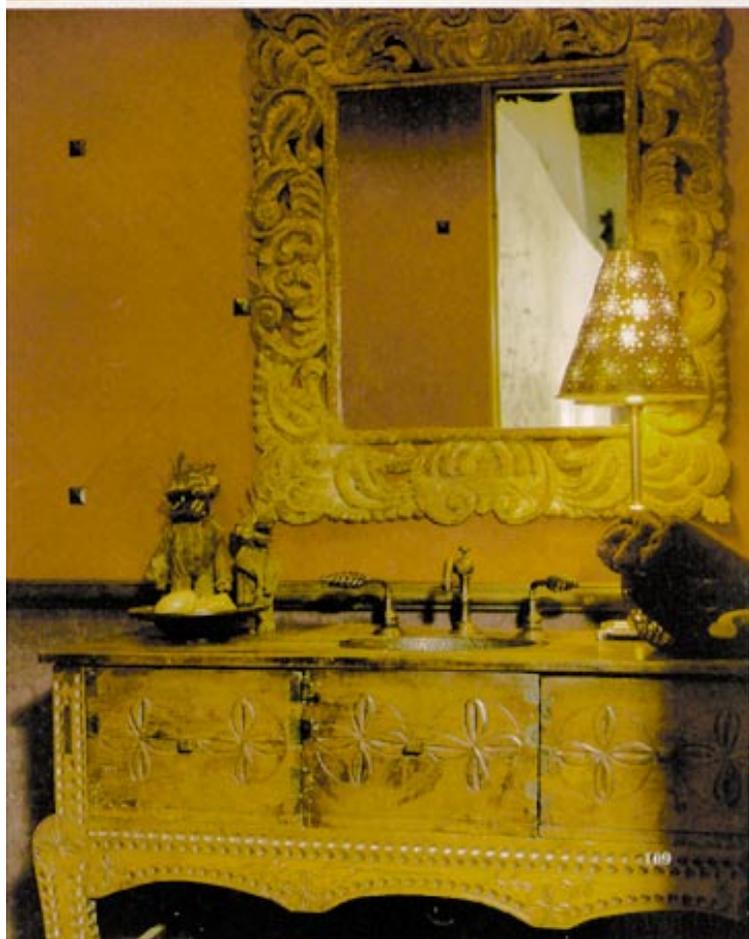
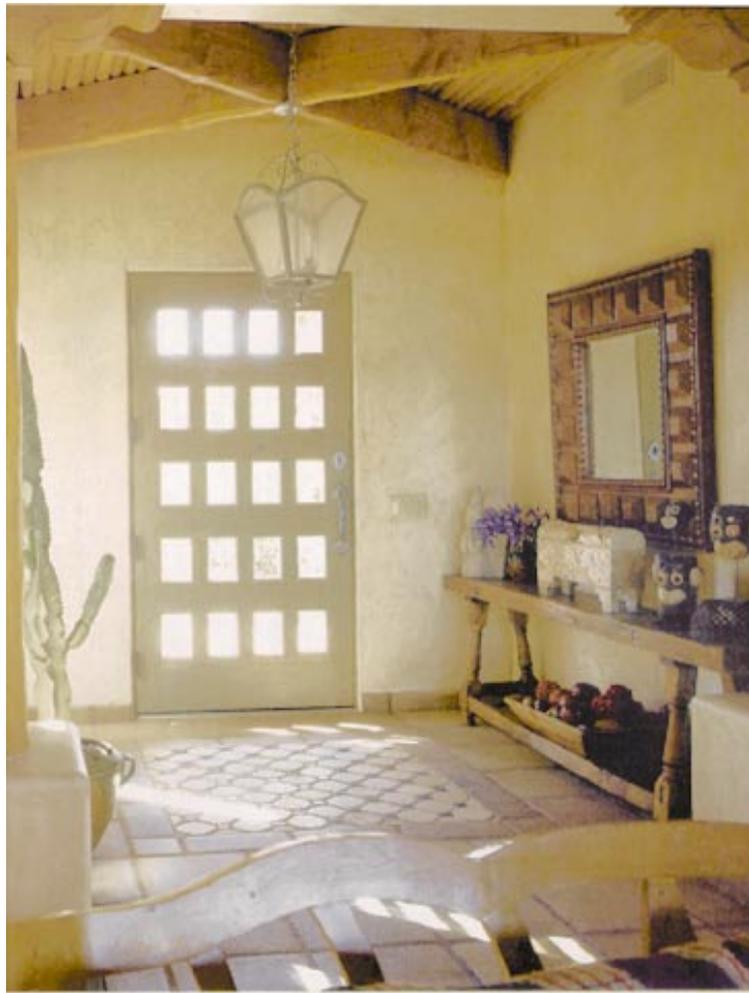
And, in true Santa-Fe style, at the center of it all is an eye-catching fireplace.

“The main fireplace anchors the house,” says Bucky. “The front door opens up to it, the stairs come down toward it, and you can see it from the dining room, kitchen, and living room. I like the idea of having this warmth at the center of the house. It’s pretty even when it’s not lit.”

Throughout, beamed ceilings, distressed wood cabinetry, faux finished walls and Mexican tile floors lend earthy warmth indoors.

The home, built by Pat Brady Construction, also features award-winning interior design by Marieann Green-Seeger, ASID, of Marieann Green Interior Design. Livable, comfortable, interesting details begin at the entry, where a tumbled-marble “rug” never needs to be straightened. For a splash of color, ceiling beams were stained black and then subtly painted with shades of purple, blue, and red. Heavily distressed custom cabinetry used in the kitchen was sent back four times with instruction to “beat it more, more, more,” Green recalls. “As far as distressing goes, you can’t go too far with Hillary. She really likes it decomposed.” (See page 96).

The same cabinetry in various colors appears throughout the house. Interesting and textural latilla-front built-in cabinets keep tableware close at hand in the dining room.



Simply furnish the identical twin beds, the guest room invites with color, comfort and privacy.



Although some new furnishings were purchased for the house, others were chosen for their “beaten-up” quality. Several old pieces from Guatemala, including a charming armoire used as a bar and a long buffet table in the dining room, provide the rustic look the homeowners were after. New or old, however, all of the furniture can withstand the wear and tear of three resident Doberman pinschers.

To varying degrees, everyone involved in the project admits that the house was designed with the dogs in mind. “My husband’s not as crazy about the dogs as I am,” admits Hillary, who breeds and shows the Dobermans. “They party when he leaves. They have the run of the house and they say, ‘We’re sleeping upstairs tonight,’” she jokes, adding, “There was a lot of behind the scenes work,

clandestine meetings on how to accommodate the dogs.”

A dog run in the back yard and durable fabrics on furnishings were worked into the overall design, as was a special dog room. Here, Kinzie, Andre and Taboo have a specially designed shower covered in black and tan tiles to match their coats, and plenty of space for displaying their awards.

“It’s really a matter of making it easier for them to live here, to make it easy to have them live here,” says Hillary. “The house is not meant to be a celebration of my Dobermans.”

But it is meant to celebrate the Southwest. And everyone agrees that it works.



Top, right: The front courtyard welcomes in warm Santa Fe style.

Right: Rustic zapatas and vigas, together with tumbled brick and native plantings, bring a classic Southwest look to one of several patios.



Architecture: Tamara Pohle, Architect

Builder: Pat Brady, Construction

Interior Design: Marieann Green-Seeger, Marriemann Green Interior Design, Inc



MISSION: *This kitchen was designed with **entertaining** in mind.*

*The homeowners wished to be an **integral** part of the action,
and they wanted to be able to **interact** with guests
as meals were being **pepared**.*

SANTA FE SALSA

Photography by Christiaan Blok

Designer Marieann Green-Seeger describes this room as “the ultimate Santa-Fe style kitchen-big, open, colorful, and homey.” Beamed ceilings and Saltillo tile floors underscore the look. Special features include faux-finished walls, distressed cabinetry finished to look like furniture, and apron-front porcelain farm sink by Flair, and a raised fireplace (right) that also opens to the adjacent living area.

Added attractions include a large center island with a planning desk at one end (opposite), plus a built-in hot water faucet (below), Scotsman ice machine and six burner Viking cooktop; travertine countertops with decorative tile border (bottom, right); and state-of-the-art appliances. The cook’s choices include a Sub-Zero refrigerator and freezer with cabinet fronts, Dacor wall oven, and Asko dishwasher. (To see more of this home turn to page 106.)



