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INTERIOR DESIGN / DAVID SCOTT, DAVID SCOTT INTERIORS
ARCHITECTURE / CHARLES R. STINSON,
CHARLES R. STINSON ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE / SHANE COEN, COEN + PARTNERS

HIGH FIDELITY

A SUN-SOAKED MOUNTAIN RANGE INSPIRES A VAST ARIZONA
RETREAT TUNED IN TO ITS NATIVE SURROUNDINGS.

WRITTEN BY JENNIFER SERGENT / PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAUL CROSBY



New York interior designer David Scott and Minnesota-based architect Charles R. Stinson collaborated on a modern mountainside house for clients in Arizona. Before building began, Stinson studied the impact of the sun on the site throughout the day and evening, siting the house to maximize views.



After decades of vacationing in Arizona, a pair of empty nesters desired their own resort-like retreat in the state they could escape to from their primary residence in Minnesota, a place where their grown children, grandchildren and extended family and friends would be comfortable year-round. “These clients wanted a house that would embrace the incredible mountain view,” says New York interior designer David Scott, whom the couple had met through friends who were previous clients. “They also wanted super-high-quality interiors—contemporary and timeless—that wouldn’t go out of style.”

To determine the home’s position and form, Minnesota-based architect Charles R. Stinson scouted the property from sunrise to sunset. “You have to have a dialogue with the site,” he says. “That’s how we determined what the house wanted to be.” Stinson’s evaluation resulted in a long sprawling form that captures the sun as it makes its way across the horizon.

A diamond-shaped great room—its tiered roof reaching up two floors—lies at the center of the structure. “It’s the soul of the house,” says the architect. “It reaches out and multiplies in both directions.” The room’s glass enclosure allows 180-degree views of the mountains on one side and opens to the light-filled motor court on the other.

Stinson took rocks from the site back to his Minnesota office, and the stones inspired an edifice integral with the terrain. “The whole idea is for the house to be one with the side of the mountain,” says the architect, who worked on the project with colleagues Chuck Thiss and Larry Ward. “You’re hunkered in on one side, and on the other side you’re floating. It’s a combination of being very grounded but allowing your spirit to soar.”

Scott translated that notion into an organically driven, contemporary interior with a golden palette. “The clients wanted a textured, layered environment that was not overly furnished but had rich materials,” he says. Starting

The entry façade reflects the strong horizontal planes and vertical stone forms Stinson used throughout the design. Landscape architect Shane Coen preserved the original reddish barrel cacti on the site, replanting them in a grid beside the driveway to the motor court.



Giant glass panels by Western Window Systems, installed by Roadrunner Glass Co., open the great room to the terrace. Scott punctuated this corner with vintage Milo Baughman barrel chairs, a custom ottoman by Azadeh Shladovsky and reflective accent tables by Barlas Baylar of Hudson Furniture.

from the ground up, Scott designed silk rugs with abstract patterns derived from nature. “Beautiful custom rugs were a huge focus,” he says. “When you’re competing with a view, you don’t want anything that stops your eye, but you want to ground it.”

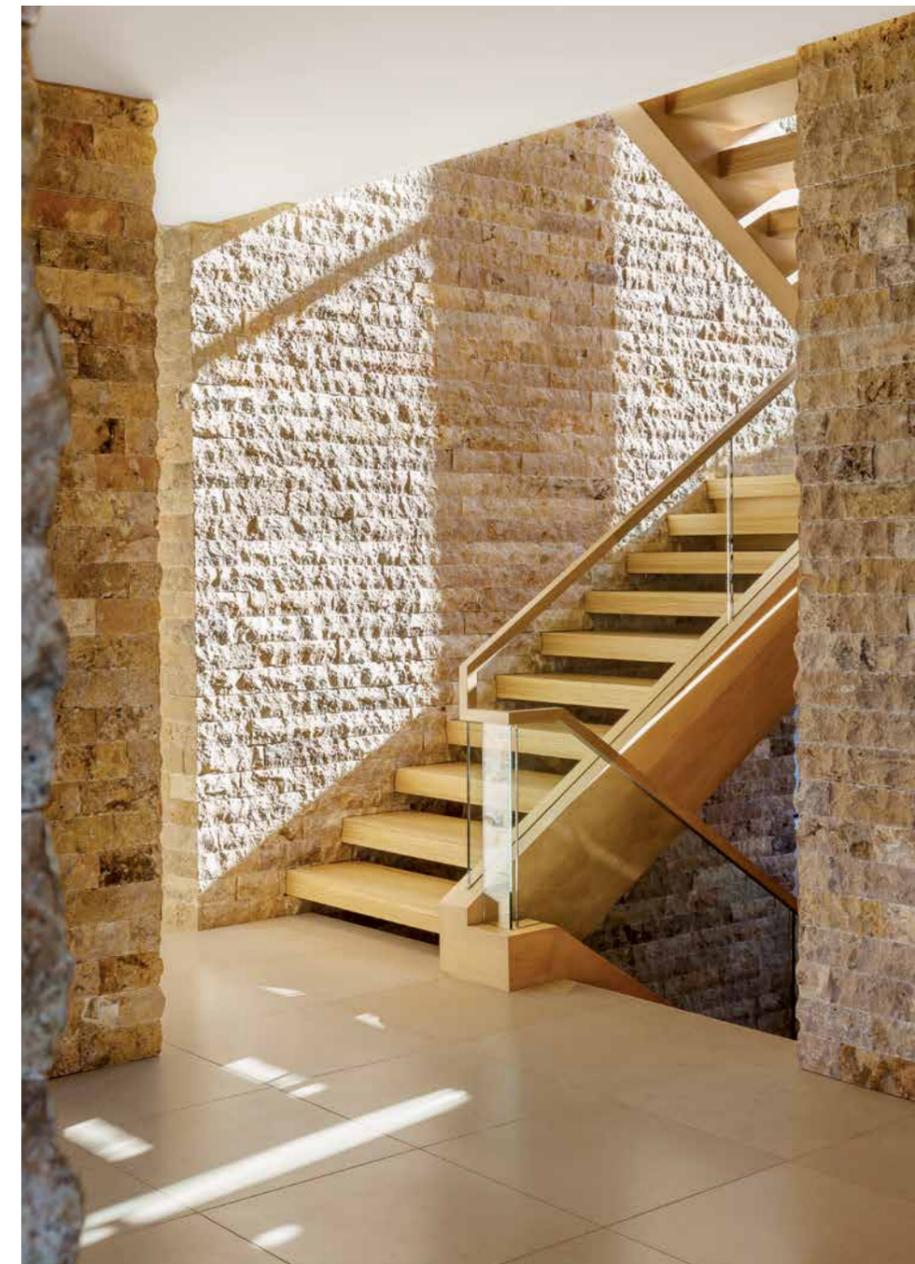
Beneath the rugs, Scott chose flooring and finish materials such as oak, marble, stone and metal that play to the home’s structure. “My thought was: How does what I do bring more to the architecture?” he explains. “How do we make each other better?” In one instance, the designer placed an assemblage of cocktail tables and ottomans in the center of the great room that speaks to the home’s interlocking squares and rectangles. Throughout the residence, he mixed vintage and contemporary pieces for a one-of-a-kind look.

Stinson, meanwhile, designed glass walls to slide into and out of stacked-stone piers so there is little distinction between the indoor and outdoor spaces. At the center of the home’s intersecting wings is the pool, which has an infinity edge that follows the great room’s lines. Designed by Minnesota landscape architect Shane Coen, the pool was constructed by Mossman Brothers Pools, under the supervision of project manager Tim Coulter of MMBI. The team also installed a tiled hot tub that rises out of the water to create a sculptural cube. This part of the house, Stinson says, is where the house and homeowners connect with the earth: The pool relates to the blue sky, while the stone piers speak to the mountain’s rocky landscape.

On the house itself, Coulter employed commercial elements—steel beams, aluminum cladding and cast-in-place concrete—to achieve Stinson’s objectives. “You have this commercial-like structure, but it really feels warm,” Coulter says. “Charles nailed the scale of it, because you don’t feel overwhelmed by it, and it doesn’t feel too big. It dissolves into the hillside and becomes part of the



The Nest chandelier by Salomé de Fontainieu from the Galerie Diane de Poignac in Paris crowns the dining room's Bauhaus table, a goatskin-clad design by Karl Springer. A Rudin chairs wearing David Sutherland leather surround the table, while a sculpture by Manuel Neri looks on.



Above: Door Works supplied and installed custom white-oak treads and risers for the sculptural stair tower. The railing was fabricated by Roadrunner Glass Co.

Left: The Bulthaupt kitchen includes black quartz countertops that pop against pale oak cabinetry and an accent wall of San Sebastian limestone; the woven-leather counter stools are by Mark Albrecht Studio from Suite NY. A mirrored Spinoza credenza by Patrick Naggar separates this space from the adjacent family room.



Opposite: Scott designed quarter-sawn oak paneling and a wall-mounted cabinet for the pool changing room, which has a frosted-glass door by Roadrunner Glass Co. leading to the pool terrace. The vintage bench is from Red Modern Furniture.

Below: A wool-and-silk carpet by Edward Fields Carpet Makers grounds the master bedroom, where Scott conceived the bed within a niche of rift-cut white-oak paneling. Legendary Finishes installed the custom-colored plaster walls. Near the glass is a daybed by Patrick Naggar for Ralph Pucci.



environment.” Coulter, who is based in Washington and came to the project through Red Moon Development, also worked with lighting designer Walter Spitz of Creative Designs in Lighting to ensure the indoor and outdoor spaces were beautifully illuminated yet wouldn’t obscure the stars and city lights in the distance.

During the daytime, the home’s expansive terraces and overhangs prevent the hot sun from penetrating the structure. But Coen ensured the desert’s native landscape remained very much a part of the property. “The whole idea is: Wherever you are, whatever level you are on, you are going to be interacting with nature in a unique way—like art,” he says, adding that he took the owners to the Desert Botanical Garden for inspiration. Tall Mexican fence

post cacti stand like soldiers around the pool base, while smaller sculptural varieties fill beds built into the terraces, along the home’s driveway and around its entry and motor court. “Our landscapes are always geometric extensions of the architectural forms as well as contextual abstractions,” says Coen, who clearly delineated where the designed landscape meets the surrounding native grounds. “We don’t believe Mother Nature can be recreated, so we never pretend to be natural.”

With this project complete, Scott praised the entire design team for creating a vacation retreat that responds to yet elevates its surroundings. “These are always the best jobs,” he says, “where there’s one common goal: to create a dream home for the client.”

Coen took plantings out of their wild context and placed them in linear groupings that complement the home's architecture. Native Arizona Landscapes Inc. installed rows of Mexican fence post cacti that border the infinity pool, which was constructed by Mossman Brothers Pools.

