

# PHOENIX HOME & GARDEN

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# Ranch Dressing

The Desire for an Arizona Ranch-Style Residence  
Spurs the Redesign of a Guest House

BY SUSAN REGAN ■ PHOTOGRAPHY BY ART HOLEMAN



**TUCKED IN A CORNER** of north Scottsdale, secluded yet not that far from city life, a 10-acre parcel of land is home to a pair of horses, two dogs, 10 chickens, a barn cat and a couple in love with the idea of Arizona ranch life. “It’s relaxing,” says the husband. “My wife has her horses and views of the city lights, and I have the open space.”

Several years ago, the two began searching for horse property. They wanted one with room to create a compound reminiscent of old haciendas, with a main house and separate quarters for family and friends. They found an overgrown uninhabited lot with a dated home and casita that had potential, but the buildings and landscaping were in need of attention. So the couple kept their eye on the land, patiently waiting for the ideal time to make it their own. They bought the property in 2009 and, eager to move in, opted to remodel the casita first and live there until the main house can be transformed into their vision of an Arizona ranch.



Interior designer Angelica Henry, ASID, was brought on board to redo the guest house. Plans called for the 900-square-foot dwelling to grow to 1,400 square feet and include an enlarged entry, expanded master bath, new powder room and a dining area. “It was very plain and safe,” Henry says of the original design. “There wasn’t anything that gave it personality.” She utilized an earthy palette of greens, browns and tans and incorporated locally mined materials and the talents of Arizona-based artisans

whenever possible to establish a regional feel.

When remodeling a space, be cognizant of the original architecture in order to maintain a sense of continuity, comments Henry. “Bring in your style, but tie it to the rest of the home to make it feel like it belongs.” For example, ceilings in the master bedroom and living room were clad in mesquite fence posts to replicate the ceiling of the nearby barn.

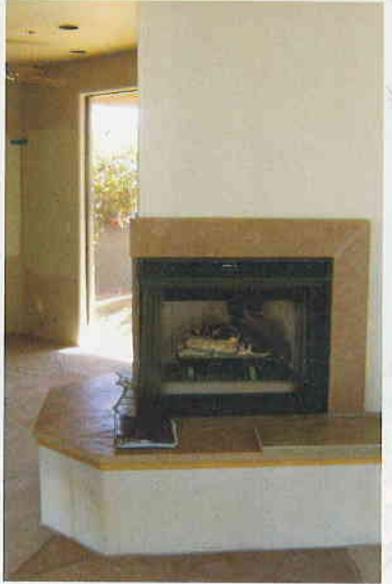
Other changes included replacing flagstone flooring with a stained manganese Saltillo tile, refinishing kitchen cabinetry, and displaying Southwestern landscape paintings and African artifacts from the homeowners’ art collection. Henry notes that the mix of artwork lends an eclectic vibe that reflects the couple’s interests and personalities. Calling the remodeled guest house “tailored rustic,” the interior designer says the result is “Arizona ranch style with a slight Modern edge.”

For the homeowners, the revamped casita is the first step toward building the Arizona ranch they have envisioned. “It is just a piece of heaven,” reflects the husband. “We’re pinching ourselves that we have this property.” ■

Initially, the kitchen featured light oak cabinetry and lacked a backsplash. Interior designer Angelica Henry created a rustic ranch feel by refacing the cabinets, adding new hardware, installing a leathered limestone countertop and using onyx tile mined near Dewey, Arizona, for the backsplash. The painting by James Swinnerton is circa 1930s.



Before



The original flagstone flooring, with its pink undertones, was replaced with stained manganese Saltillo tiles that complement the warm, earthy hues of the new color palette. Other changes to the living area included cladding the ceiling in wood and updating the fireplace. Angelica Henry says that the fireplace was “one of the tougher elements to work with” in the casita because it partially faced the kitchen but lacked visual connection to the space. To remedy this problem, she trimmed the area with steel bands, painted the firebox black and replaced the existing hearth with the same leathered limestone used for the kitchen countertops. Steel baseboards were utilized throughout much of the house for continuity. Artist Ed Mell painted the Southwest scene above the sofa specifically for the homeowners.







**Opposite:** A modernized ranch style prevails in the new powder room. The vanity is crafted from old mesquite wood and is topped with a bronze sink. Tiles in shades of tan, brown and green cover the lower portion of the walls; the mirror has a wood frame.

**This page:** The master bath was enlarged and reconfigured. The new double-sink wood vanity is topped with Opera Fantastico marble with a leathered finish. The large mirror is mounted in a custom metal frame; the acrylic pendants also are a custom design.

*See Sources.*

