

# PHOENIX HOME & GARDEN

*The Magazine of Southwest Living*

THE  
NEW  
OLD  
WEST

SEPTEMBER 2014  
PHGMAG.COM \$4.99  
0 9>



0 74820 63104 11

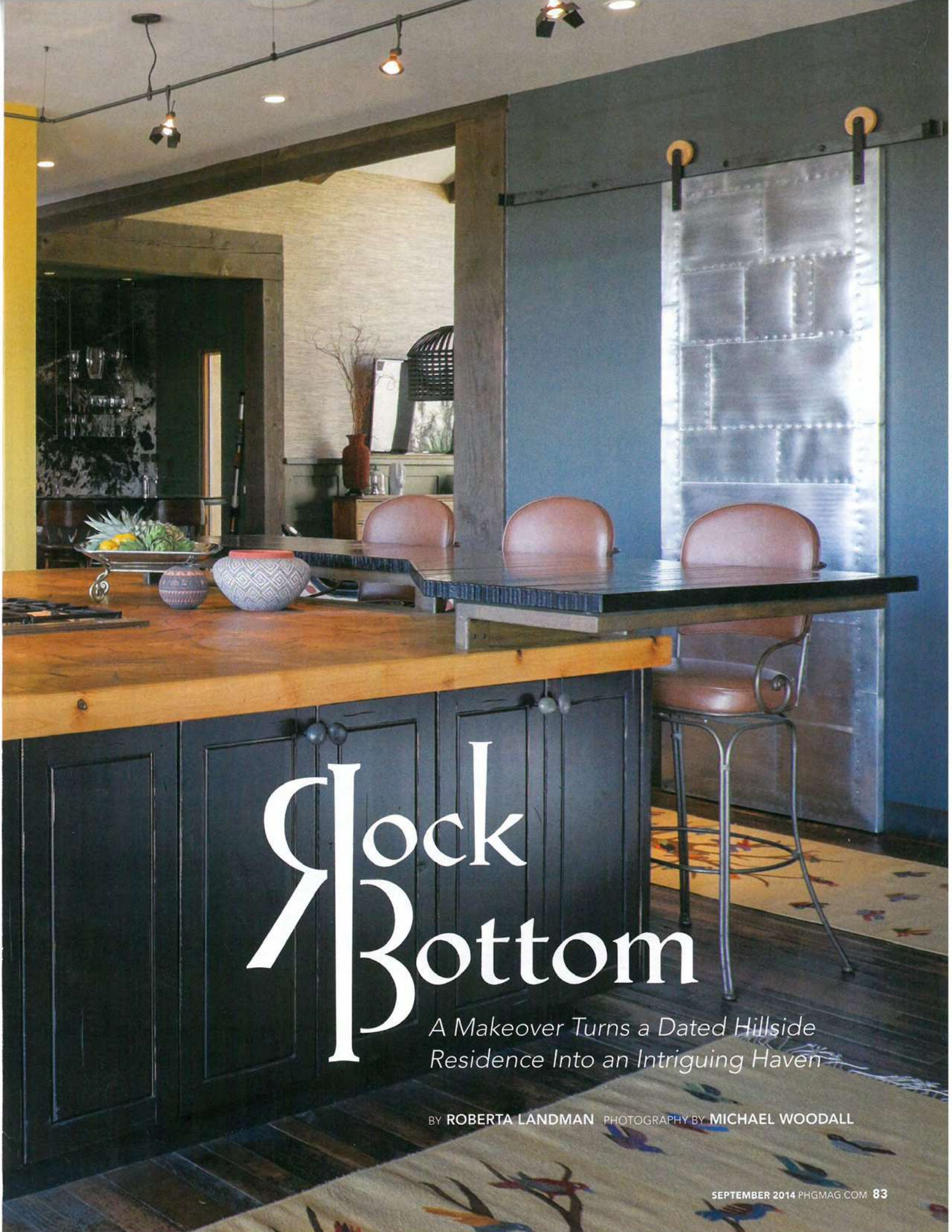
# THE NEW OLD WEST







Old West converges with New West in the kitchen, which features a center island with a fused-glass dining bar, a riveted zinc-clad rolling door that hides walk-in pantry, and a wall of cabinets and appliances concealed with reclaimed barnwood planks showcasing the artistry of Rob Stenberg.



# Rock Bottom

*A Makeover Turns a Dated Hillside  
Residence Into an Intriguing Haven*

BY ROBERTA LANDMAN PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL WOODALL



**HAPPILY, HITTING "ROCK BOTTOM" WAS** not a scary thing for Beth and Jeff Elzemeyer. In fact, the Carefree, Arizona, couple has embraced the usually alarming words and applied them to the house they love.

"We named it Rock Bottom," says Beth, "since it sits at the base of all those incredible boulders." She is speaking of Carefree's natural "sculptures" of boulders atop boulders.

It was those rock formations—and the good weather—that wooed the one-time Memphis, Tennessee, residents as they vacationed at Carefree's Boulders Resort. Upon retirement, they left colder, wet weather behind, rented homes in Scottsdale for a while, and then bought a house in Carefree. However, it was the boulder-dotted site—more than the dwelling—that they adored. They knew from the

start that remodeling was in the picture. "But as we got into the project, we found we were changing more and more until it made the most sense just to demo and start over," remarks Beth. Only the footprint of the original house remains.

The problems: The existing 1980s house did not take advantage of mountain views. The kitchen and master suite were too small, and bathrooms were dated. And, most importantly, the house did not have a spot for Jeff to pursue his woodworking passion, his wife relates. Interior designer Angelica Henry and architect Mark Candelaria—with creative contributions from the man of the house—changed all that. Now, filled with organic elements that evoke the Old West, such as copper, wood, glass and stone, the made-over residence is uniquely New West in spirit, with materials used in unexpected ways.

"The style of the house, coined that of a 'successful Telluride miner' by the project team, was achieved through a mix of rustic and refined materials, a rich color palette, and perfectly imperfect hand-wrought touches to create a sense of relaxed comfort," Henry comments. "For example, rebar is a standard material that usually gets hidden, but I decided to highlight it." Rebar forms a fireplace hood in the living room and becomes the legs of see-through glass cabinets elsewhere. In the kitchen, an expansive wall of barnwood that disguises cabinets and appliances is embellished with hand-painted fine art. Baseboards throughout are steel.

In addition to opening up rooms and adding volume to spaces, another goal was to capitalize on views, Candelaria notes. Previously, the outdoor environment went unseen when one entered the house. Now, collapsing glass doors in the living room provide a clear view of the backyard setting, which was refurbished by landscape architect Donna Winters, a Phoenix Home & Garden Master of the Southwest.

Jeff, meanwhile, got his own special place for woodworking. In his workshop, located on the lower level of a new guest casita, he has turned out dining room chairs and more. "But the best, in my opinion, is the kitchen countertop," says his wife. "It is hard to stand at the counter and not rub your hands on it," she admits in reverence to its expanse of salvaged hemlock squares. ■

**Opposite:** Natural materials abound in the family room, where reclaimed barnwood meets stone and zinc on the fireplace wall. The chimney was fabricated by the homeowner. Interior designer Angelica Henry padded and upholstered the "fenders" at the base of the fireplace to provide additional seating. A cart-cum-coffee table—new but meant to look old—rests atop a cowhide rug.

**Right:** The joined letters R and B, standing for Rock Bottom, are used often in the home. Here they can be seen carved in a custom stone element.







**Opposite:** Interior designer Angelica Henry, who won an ASID Design Excellence award for this home in 2013, used a playful approach in the bar area. Here, hair-on-hide panels clad the rear wall, where floating glass shelves are suspended from rebar supports; the front of the bar is covered in fabric with a steerhead motif; its countertop is zinc.

**Right:** Architect Mark Candelaria, AIA, a Phoenix Home & Garden Master of the Southwest, gave the homeowners the open, airy spaces they desired. The living room, for example, features a high, wood-planked and trussed ceiling. "We gave Angelica the space to do her thing," the architect quips. And she did just that with a dramatic ceiling-high fireplace hood made of rebar. The lofty lacy-looking element "exposes" the fireplace function, she points out, for the tall metal flue is clearly visible. It also garnered a first-place ASID Design Excellence Award in 2013. The painting to the left of the fireplace is by Rob Stenberg. A shag rug over brick-colored scored concrete flooring pulls the fireside conversation grouping together.

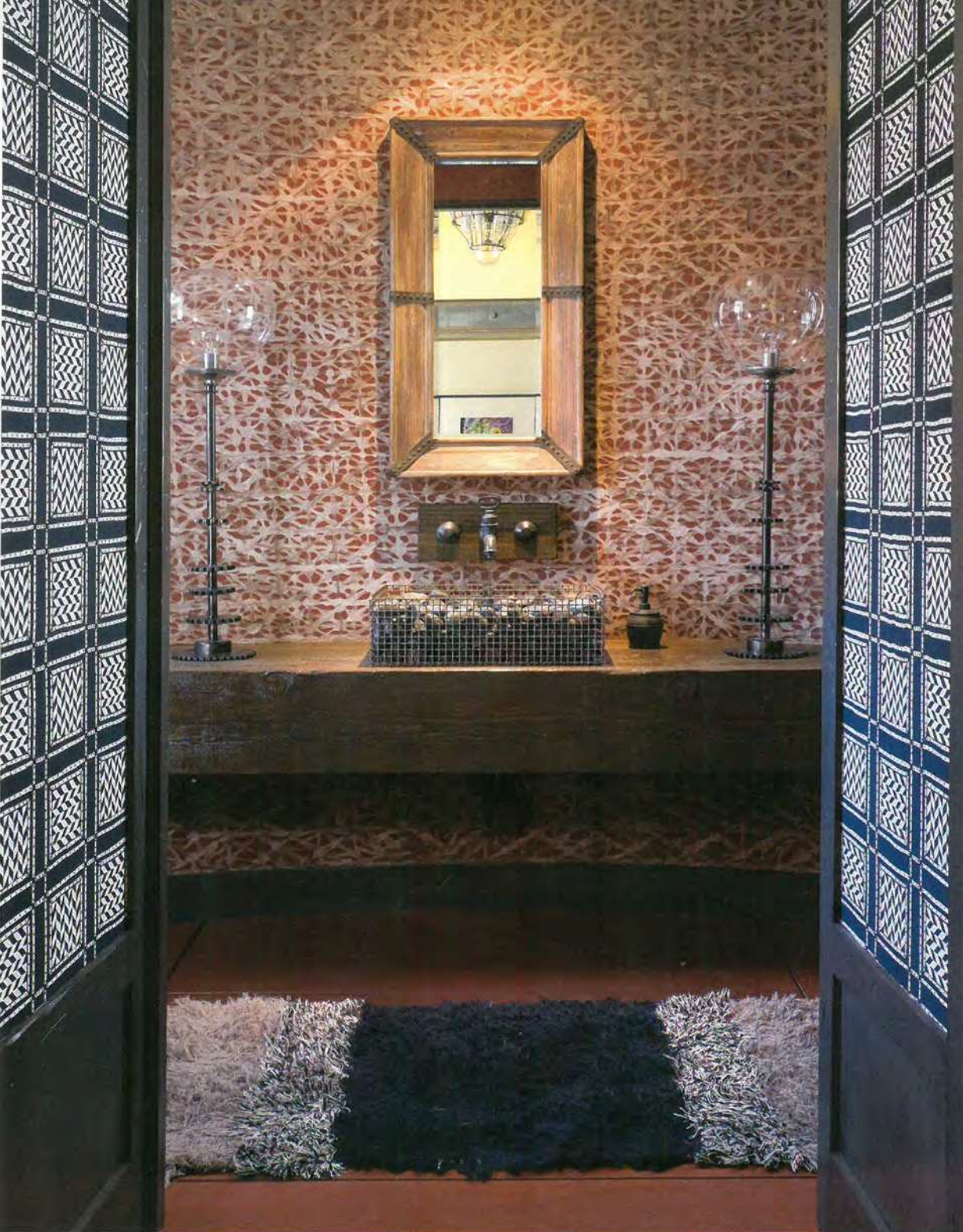






**Opposite:** Upholstered fabric panels create a colorful backdrop in the master bedroom. The surrounding wall is made of rough-sawn fir planks, set board-and-batten style. Homeowner Jeff Elzemeyer fabricated the headboard from a hickory slab and also crafted the rocking chair. The bedside chest, one of a pair, features knobs made of utilitarian bolts.

**Above, clockwise from left:** The master bathroom's copper slipper tub sits on flooring composed of clay tile laid in a checkerboard pattern with an inset of wood. ■ "Her" vanity has a soapstone countertop and see-through glass cabinets. ■ Made by Jeff Elzemeyer, "His" vanity features a lacquered-plywood sink and countertop supported by legs of bundled rebar.



**Above:** Double doors opening to the powder room are inset with a tribal-patterned textile. On the back wall, brick-red paint peeks through openings of a woven-bark wallcovering. Atop the floating beam vanity—crafted by the man of the house—is a sink “made of repurposed chicken-wire and a bag of river rocks. A functional stainless steel sink is hidden below.” Water tumbles into the basin from a wall-mounted faucet; the tall lamps are fashioned from glass and gear shafts.



**Left:** In the foyer, a chandelier made of glass bottles is a clue to expect the unexpected in the rooms that lie beyond.





**Above:** A rebar-legged desk-on-wheels lends the home office an Industrial vibe, while the built-in shelving and outside rondelle-glass-doored cabinets yield pure refinement, as a showcase for Jeff Elzemeyer's woodworking artistry. The zinc-covered wall behind the shelves speaks to the juxtaposition of Old West rusticity and New West sophistication.

*See Sources.*

*“Filled with organic elements that evoke the Old West ... the made-over residence is uniquely New West in spirit, with materials used in unexpected ways”*