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LIVING IN STYLE



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DESERT ARCHITECTURE IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Gordon Rogers relocated to Arizona to slow down his life.

"I didn't want to stop doing architecture," he insists. "I was just burned out running a big architectural firm."

So, after living in Kalamazoo, Michigan for 18 years, the Michigan native and his wife, Lee, drove West across the U.S. to start again in Phoenix. The couple was familiar with the Southwestern desert as Gordon had apprenticed in Tucson and in Phoenix, Arizona.

Left: the swimming-pool at this house, designed by Gordon Rogers, merges smoothly into the desert landscape. The large overhang is shaped like the prow of a ship and, at night, guides the eye to the city lights of Scottsdale.

Above: detailing and materials are important for Rogers, witness this photo of the pool.

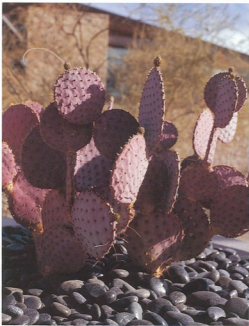
gordon rogers

Gordon Rogers designed this house on either side of an 'array' or desert gully, linking the entrance and main house with a steel bridge. It was made in Minnesota and had to be transported all the way to Arizona.

Right: the living area of the same house, with cedarwood ceilings and narrow triangular frames to support the roof. Behind the living-room, in a central position, is the kitchen.

NEAR PAID HAIR
photos: Hans Fork

Special thanks to: My Mother - airport of Phoenix, Continental Airlines, Best Sit.



Gordon Rogers opened his office in Phoenix with a simple business plan. He would spend nine months working out of his studio, adjacent to his Phoenix home, and return to Perntwater, Michigan for three months every summer. This schedule meant he would eliminate doing commercial work, a choice he freely made. What he didn't count on was becoming one of Arizona's most sought-after architects for contemporary homes.

Ironically, Rogers' Arizona career began in Santa Fé, New Mexico when, in 1990, he was asked to design a studio for artists Fran and Hal Larsen. The Larsens had good friends who owned property in Desert Mountain, an exclusive golf community in North Scottsdale. Fran Larsen suggested that they call on Gordy to design their home.

The Desert Mountain residence won an AIA award in 1991 and was also named Arizona Home of the Year. Publication put Rogers' work in front of an appreciative audience who prizes bold geometric architecture. Other Arizona Home of the Year awards followed. Within a few years, Gordon Rogers' yellow mustang con-



vertible, circa 1973, was a familiar sight in exclusive North Scottsdale communities.

His architecture clearly resonates with the desert. He says he considers two disparate images when he draws a home - a sombrero and a sailboat. Rogers, who is a talented artist, draws each home by hand, producing elegant sketches that are suitable for framing. "The roof, or sombrero acts like a giant hat to shade the desert structure," he continues.

The sailboat is his icon for sleek functionality. "From sombreros to sailboats to ships," he muses. "I have a new home barely under construction in Desert Highlands that looks like the underside of an old Viking ship. It is very exciting."

Where Rogers sees sombreros and ships, others see strong geometry. Roger's roofs float; his ceilings soar. Bridges are engineered to elegantly connect living spaces. The architecture of Gordon Rogers luxuriates in the dramatic, geometric relationship that exists between the earth and sky. Like the man, himself, the

