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TRANSFORMERS
Remodeling projects in
Arizona and Colorado

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Left: A two-story addition opens the house to landscape and mountain views.
Below: The house before renovation.

TRANSFORMERS

The new name of the game is remodeling. Two new projects not only transformed the space, but the users' experience as well.

BY NORA BURBA TRULSSON

Photography by Bill Timmerman and Steve Thompson

RANCH HOUSE REDUX

Paradise Valley, Arizona

Lynette Pollari, AIA

Steve Thompson, AIA

Thompson + Pollari

Phoenix, Arizona

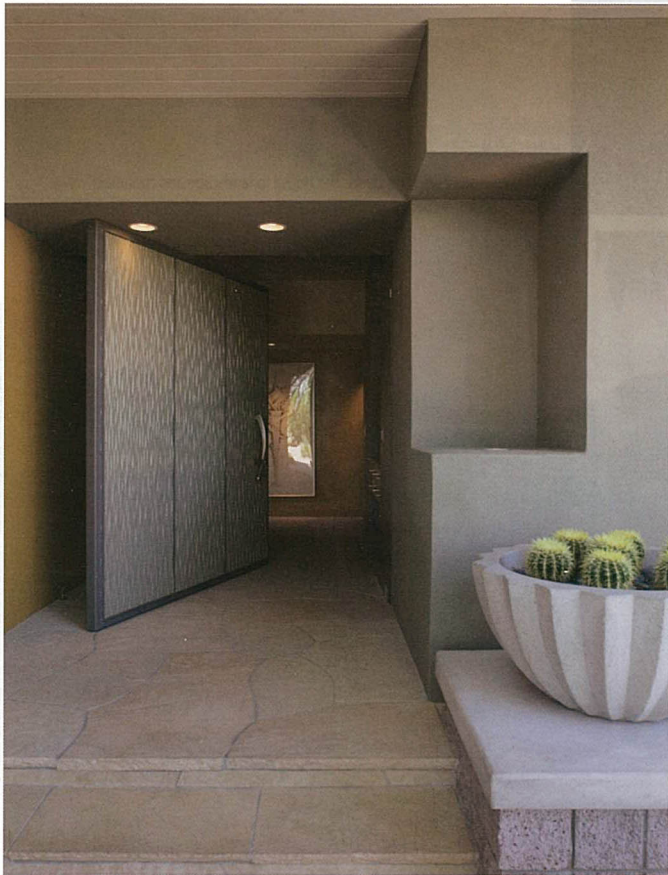
IT WAS THE TYPICAL SUBURBAN REMODELING STORY: A COUPLE with three young children buy a 1956 ranch-style home in Paradise Valley and live in it for several years before tackling a major renovation. Two factors, however, made the project not quite so typical: The homeowners are avowed modernists who love classic Palm Springs designs, and the home is located on a lush, 1.7-acre desert lot with spectacular views of landmark Camelback and Mummy mountains. The owners knew they wanted a renovation that was both modern and linked to the landscape and views.

"The original house really had no views," explains architect Steve Thompson who, with his wife and partner, architect Lynette Pollari, were asked to handle the remodeling and expansion project. "It had no connection to the outdoors. Also, it was getting to be too small for an active family."

Working with the existing single-story, 3,300-square-foot house as the "belly" of the remodeling and expansion, Pollari and Thompson came up with a new floorplan that used what they call the "domino effect" of reorganizing spaces. "The old living room became the new dining room," Pollari says, "while the old dining room became a sitting area, and so forth."

The new floorplan includes a grander, repositioned entry. To the north, the existing house became the dining room, sitting area, children's wing and a corner home office. Additionally, the existing kitchen was transformed





Clockwise from above: A view of the house before renovation. The new entry includes an eight-foot pivot door. The addition includes a kitchen and breakfast area. Stairs lead to the new master suite.



An outdoor family room was tucked between the addition and new garage.

into an activity room, where the children could do homework, plus a laundry and hallway to accommodate cubbies for the children's books, backpacks and sporting equipment.

On the south side of the house, the existing garage was demolished to make way for a new kitchen as well as a new addition that includes a great room and second-story master suite. A new garage with a roof deck was tucked to the side of the addition.

Views drove the new plan, explains Thompson. "The new great room has 16-foot-high ceilings so we could do glass walls that frame Camelback Mountain views to the south. Putting the new kitchen where the garage was also gave it views of Camelback and the landscape." The upper-level master suite has mountain views from both the bedroom and the shower, and includes a deck that looks uphill toward Mummy Mountain, as well as Camelback. Pollari and Thompson also worked to create numerous patio and deck areas, including an outdoor family room.

Even though the house grew to be more than 6,000

square feet and two stories in size, careful placement makes it recede into its site. "When you look at it from the street or neighbors' lots, the house is subdued," says Thompson. "We also made sure that there was privacy for the homeowners, even with all the new windows."

In elevation, the renovated house includes flat, cantilevered rooflines and bold, angled masonry block walls that run from exterior through interior. Materials also include butt-glazed window walls, metal and fir Glulam beams. The interior is detailed with scored concrete and wood flooring, tongue-in-groove ceilings, steel I-beams, granite countertops, maple cabinetry and tile accents.

Throughout the house, the architects added numerous touches that help frame the homeowners' collection of contemporary furniture and art. A deep mustard-hued Venetian plaster was used to accent some walls, while others were colored with a smoke-tinged green hue. The eight-foot-square pivoting entry door is clad in textured panels, which, Pollari points out, were also used on



Above: The old living room became the new dining room. The sunken floor was filled in and clad with maple flooring. Left: A deck off the master suite has views of both Mummy and Camelback mountains.



the kitchen island. "We used color and texture to keep the interior from being stark and cold," she notes.

Outdoors, patios and decks were furnished with comfortable seating and overscale pots and containers. The outdoor family room includes a flat-screen TV for al fresco playoff viewing.

The completed house has provided the family with not only new views and outdoor living spaces, but an interior where they can both be together and find individual privacy.



Broad overhangs protect outdoor spaces. The stairs lead to a roof deck above the garage.

Architecture: Thompson + Pollari, Phoenix, AZ; (602) 957-2250 or www.tp-studio.com.

Landscape architecture: e Group, 7337 E. Doubletree Ranch Road, Suite C-165, Scottsdale, AZ 85258; (602) 462-9000 or www.egroupinc.com.

Builder: Stone Creek Building Company, 3764 E. Oasis Circle, Mesa, AZ 85215; (480) 832-0905 or www.stonecreekbuilding.com.

Concrete block: Superlite Block, www.superliteblock.com.

Glazing: Mirror Works, 5706 W. Missouri Ave., Suite 100, Glendale, AZ 85301; (623) 435-9205 or www.mirror-works.com.

Lighting: Wild West Lighting, 15550 N. 84th St., Suite 201, Scottsdale, AZ 85260; (480) 368-9909 or www.wildwestlighting.com.

Front door and kitchen island panels: Interlam, www.interlam-design.com.

Outdoor containers: Kornegay Design, 212 S. 18th St., Phoenix, AZ 85034; (602) 252-6323 or www.kornegaydesign.com.