

GET THE LOOK: Top Trends in Western Design

Mountain Living

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2002

A WIESNER PUBLICATION \$3.95

Home of the Year WINNERS

Fresh Ideas Inside and Out

GREAT ESCAPES

The Best Time to be in
WINE COUNTRY

Insider's Guide to
SHOPPING in
Texas Hill
Country



www.mountainliving.com

2002 HOME
OF THE YEAR WINNER



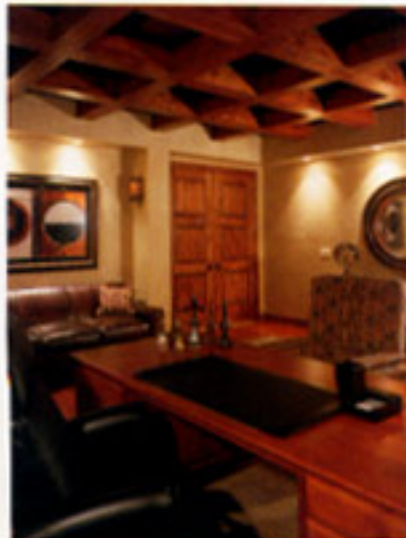
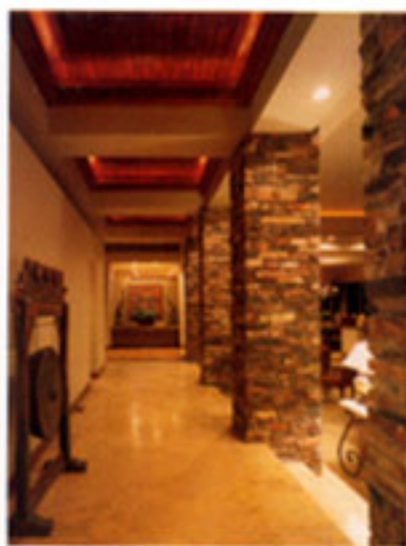
Desert Bloom



A creative architectural and design team fulfills their clients' desire for Asian, European and Southwestern influences, all with a sensitivity to the surrounding desert landscape.

Salt Lake City architect Raymond Jones designed this St. George, Utah, home to blend with its desert surroundings. *previous page*. *This page*: A mixture of stone, wood and neutral tones gives the home an understated, relaxed feel. Asian, European and Southwestern influences give an international flavor.

By Patrick Soran Photography by Frank Carter



This 11,300-square-foot Home of the Year in St. George, Utah, was designed by artisans who listened carefully and responded creatively. They satisfied the owners' needs while paying attention to the overall precepts of good design: style, function and solid construction—not to mention texture, scale, siting, color and, most important, the owners' happiness. "Giving them what they wanted in the context of good design was our strategy," says architect Raymond Jones.

The building site was just three-quarters of an acre on the town's Entrada Golf Course. And although living alongside a course has definite advantages, it also comes with restrictions. In this case, the golf course side of any home cannot exceed one story. Combine this with the owners' desire to have a good number of the rooms face the greens and the cliffs beyond, and you have a lot of function to fit in a confined space.

"Basically," says builder J. D. Thompson, "we had to reshape the whole lot." They moved tons of earth and boulders to create a natural-looking earth form between the golf course and the house. This allowed them to set the two-story home behind that berm, giving a one-story illusion to a two-story house.

Magnificent views include dramatic red-stone formations topping Snow Canyon beyond. "The owners were very firm that they wanted to see that view," Raymond recalls. In response, he laid out the house as an "L" around two sides of a pool and filled the walls with glass.





“We wanted it to *blend* with the desert, not *be* the desert.”

Along with owners' request of stone surfacing, Raymond added copper fascias and details to create a home that addresses at least three issues: owner preferences, sensitivity to the natural surrounding and architectural interest.

When it comes to interior design oftentimes the designer is handed the architect's drawings and forced to make do. Not so here. “Raymond is really easy to work with,” says interior designer Rebecca Buchan. “As the architect created each space he gave us his sketches so we could work out our own designs,” Rebecca says. “If something wasn't quite right or didn't quite fit, we could make suggestions.” And Raymond would change the architecture to fit the vision.

Getting the colors and materials correct involved all the players as well. The owners wanted stone inside as well as out and had seen a gleaming limestone floor in a magazine. “Finding the limestone floor was easy,” Raymond says. Creating the walls took a little more doing.

This selection drove the color palette for the entire home. “We wanted rich earth tones that looked natural but weren't an exact copy of the pink sandstone cliffs,” says Rebecca. Says Ray-

mond: “We wanted it to *blend* with the desert, not *be* the desert.”

The interiors successfully mix a number of styles and influences. “The owners wanted a house that knew it was in the Southwest,” says Rebecca, “that had the comforts of European furniture with a twist of Asia.”

In the living room, Rebecca limited the Asian influence to the art around the fireplace. The furniture has strong European flavors but is upholstered in textured chenille or leathers. In the dining room, Louis XIII-style chairs surround a heavily carved table—all sitting on a Nepalese wool rug.

The master bedroom brings influences of Asian and Southwest design together. The simple bed frame has a rugged French provincial feel, but the velvet cover sans fussy skirt harkens to an American simplicity. The lamps are decidedly Asian. The stone fireplace, its narrow hearth and massive stone mantle extending across the entire end of the room, feels Southwestern, kiva-like. “It's definitely an eclectic mix,” says Rebecca. “But by listening and paying close attention to texture, color and detail, we could create a unified feeling.” ▲



This page, from top: The back of the home features a series of quiet courtyards and pool. The large master bath continues the quiet theme of neutral tones. The kitchen was designed for gourmet cooks. The master bedroom, *opposite*, is an eclectic mix of styles, pulled together with texture, color and detail.

