



perfect formula.

WRITTEN BY JORGE S. ARANGO | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOSHUA KLEIN

WHEN DEVELOPER JOHN MURPHEY JOINED FORCES WITH RENOWNED TUCSON ARCHITECT JOSIAS JOESLER IN THE LATE 1920S, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT EITHER REALIZED HOW LEGENDARY THEIR COLLABORATION WOULD BECOME. But by his death in the mid '50s, Joesler had designed hundreds of buildings in the scenic desert town, most under the aegis of Murphey. Today, theirs are hallowed names in these parts.

The duo's masterpiece, most locals agree, remains Catalina Foothills Estates near Sabino Canyon, a 7,000-acre tract that was intended to lure well-heeled Northerners seeking warm-weather second homes. Their formula's success continues to this day, as evidenced by the couple who bought this Joesler-designed property as a vacation getaway. Both fashion executives, the couple fell in love with the architect's signature amalgamation of genres—primarily Spanish colonial revival, but with accents of Pueblo, Italianate and Deco, among others—which suited their divergent predilections: One is a traditionalist, the other a modernist.

INTERIOR DESIGN	Scott Sanders, Scott Sanders LLC
HOME BUILDER	John Woodin, Woodin Construction Company, Inc.
KITCHEN DESIGN	Katrina L. Mullinax, CKD, Homeworks Cabinetry + Design
LANDSCAPE DESIGN	Genevieve K. Rothkopf, Rothkopf Landscape Studio
BEDROOMS 3	BATHROOMS 5 SQUARE FEET 5,187



STYLE SELECTION
This stunning handblown crystal vessel by Caleb Siemon was crafted using a linear engraving process that adds depth and luminosity. *Inciso Bronze/Tea Uvase*, \$2,200; calebsiemon.com



WARM WELCOME

A kiva fireplace warms the home's Arizona room, which designer Scott Sanders divided into distinct yet interconnected sections that include this foyer-like space. A custom iron lantern by Paul Ferrante in New York casts a glow over a walnut table from Démiurge.

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The home, built in 1935 for novelist Walt Coburn, was in good condition but needed a little freshening up, says the traditionalist partner. "It was more about peeling off the outer layers" of successive renovations, he explains. "We were fortunate that the original beauty underneath was still intact."

They were also fortunate to be in the good hands of an excellent design team that included New York-based designer Scott Sanders, an old friend, and builder John Woodin, whose experience restoring many



HOT SEAT

The Arizona room commands garden views that can be enjoyed from handwoven rope furniture by John Himmel Decorative Arts, purchased at John Roselli & Associates and covered in ginger-hued stonewashed linen from Lee Jofa. A custom kilim wool rug from Sacco Carpet grounds the arrangement.



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historic properties in Tucson proved invaluable in the house, where all the walls are 16-inch-thick adobe rather than wood frame and Sheetrock. “You don’t see internal adobe walls anymore,” says Woodin. “These types of techniques are starting to be forgotten.”

Woodin restored the home’s intricately carved doors, sandblasted ceiling beams harvested from the surrounding Santa Catalina Mountains, and uncovered details such as a painted-over tile mural in the breakfast area. He also converted the old master bathroom into a walk-in closet and then co-opted about 30 feet of a 70-foot porch to create a more luxurious bath.

The small kitchen was gutted and a drop ceiling removed to expose pitched wood beams. Kitchen designer Katrina L. Mullinax moved a refrigerator to the vestibule of the adjacent cellar steps, freeing up

GARDEN ACCESS

Set against dynamic garden views, the breakfast area showcases the silhouette of an early 20th-century French vendange table purchased at The Yellow Monkey in Cross River, New York. A clay tile floor imparts a rustic character.



TUSCAN SUN
The Tuscany chandelier by Paul Ferrante presides over meals served on an antique dining table with a trestle base and a top cobbled from a 150-year-old piece of wood. Chairs are upholstered in Rogers & Goffigon Aurora linen; the geometric console is from Dos Gallos in Los Angeles.



SAINTED STYLE

Developer John Murphey's wife, Helen, was fond of tiled wall shrines from Mexico. The design team discovered this one of San Pasqual, patron saint of kitchens, under multiple coats of paint. It graces a wall of the breakfast area, where a custom wingback settee joins chairs from the 19th century.



WHITE OUT

Kitchen designer Katrina L. Mullinax installed the room's custom Crestwood cabinetry and designed a hood whose shape echoes the home's fireplaces. Honed marble forms the countertops, while the backsplash is made up of Ken Mason's Cal Rough tiles from Artesana Tile. Holophane pendants hang overhead.

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more room. She then created custom cabinetry and installed an island. Additionally, says Mullinax, "White made the space feel so much larger."

For the rest of the home, the clients asked Sanders to create a sense of "approachable luxury." Furniture and fabrics "had to relate to the architecture, but they did not necessarily need to be what would have originally been found in the home," says Sanders. "We mixed antiques with fresh pieces—many made to look aged—as well as used old wood to make new furnishings." The designer balanced the owners' tastes, he says, "by mixing transitional and clean-lined traditional furnishings and keeping the palette very neutral with small amounts of color."



LEVEL FIELD

The backyard is a composition in levels of views and materials: Mountain panoramas rise above a vine-covered wall that then descends to a rock fountain and, eventually, the pool. Landscape designer Genevieve K. Rothkopf gave the space a tropical feel with plants transplanted from the front.

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This careful use of color can first be seen in the home's cozy Arizona room, where comfortable furnishings provide relaxed seating in a ginger hue. Red shades continue with cayenne-tinted draperies in the dining room and custom accent pillows on the breakfast area banquette. The master bedroom remains a soothing neutral retreat.

Outside, landscape designer Genevieve K. Rothkopf resolved the problem of the front door. "It was enclosed by a courtyard, so as you drove up, it wasn't clear which way you should go to get in," recalls Rothkopf, who opened up the courtyard by creating a dramatically wide walkway.



FIRE WALL

Resting poolside and gazing over a raised bed of flowers are two armless chaises from David Sutherland paired with a side table from Walters Wicker. A grouping of Balou open-weave furniture from Janus et Cie draws closer to the fireplace for cool desert nights.



DESERT DREAMING

Rich textures in the master bedroom include linen from Rose Tarlow Melrose House on a custom settee by Doreen Interiors in New York, Lee Jofa angora mohair on the base of a Cosmo bed from Cisco Brothers, draperies in Cowtan & Tout linen and a silk-wool rug.



CALMING OASIS

From their elegant Cheviot slipper tub, the homeowners can view the front garden, where Rothkopf cleaned up the overgrowth to showcase the desert flora, including pines, cacti and agave. The acacia wood stool is from Tucker Robbins; the limestone-tiled flooring from Fractured Earth Tile & Stone.

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She also cut down and salvaged about 30 pine trees that obscured mountain views and moved tropical plants—palms, citrus and Australian bottle trees—from the front to the back, replacing them with more site-appropriate agaves, saguaros and ocotillos.

In the end, the historic home in the desert received a stunning renovation that merges today's comforts with the beauty of the past, and perhaps no one would be prouder with the results than the team of Joesler and Murphey. **L**