

Each day in this special section of **At Home Week**, we'll tour a Valley designer's home and show you how to get the look.



**MONDAY: RUSTIC**

Turn your patio and yard into a relaxing rustic retreat with ideas from Ron and Mary Vallone of Scottsdale and the Royal Palms Resort and Spa in Phoenix.

**Also:** Get an Old World feel with furniture and accessories in chocolate brown; see how the trendy big sink fits into your kitchen; what to know before buying leather chairs and recliners; where to splurge and where to save in your bathroom remodel.



**TUESDAY: TRADITIONAL**

Get lovely ideas from the traditional styling of Christopher Coffin's dining room and Phoenix's Ritz-Carlton.

**Also:** Getting a read on nightstands; how pavers can transform your driveway and patio; true blue colors for your home.



**WEDNESDAY: MODERN**

Tour Lew Gallo and Brad Plumley's modern bathroom and Scottsdale's Hotel Valley Ho.

**Also:** Create clean lines by decorating with black and white; what's new in outdoor fabrics; how to invest in your kitchen.

**TODAY: CASUAL INSIDE**

- **Interior design:** Have fun with red furniture and accessories. **Page 2**
- **Bathrooms:** Check out the newest trends in bathroom tiles. **Page 3**
- **Kitchens:** Today's islands are as pretty as furniture. **Page 5**



**FRIDAY: ECLECTIC**

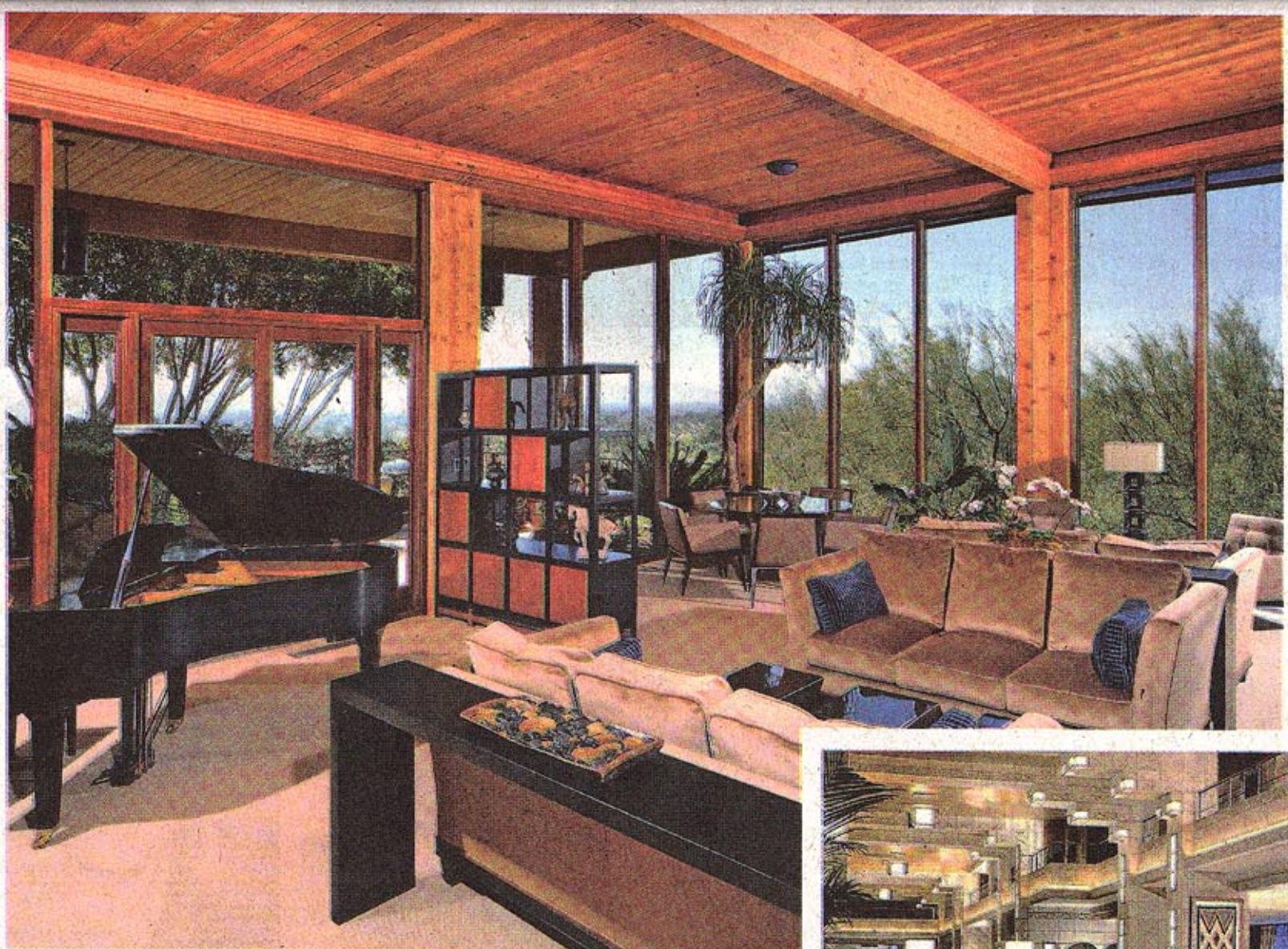
Be inspired by Sharon Fannin's eclectic bedroom and the eclectic vibe at Sanctuary on Camelback Mountain in Paradise Valley.

**Also:** How vent hoods are used as art in kitchens; wood floors vs. laminate floors; brightening your home with green for spring.

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Barbara and Mike McLean use several seating areas to make their great room more inviting.



ARIZONA BILTMORE RESORT & SPA

The lobby of the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa offers numerous seating areas, including leather chairs and upholstered sofas.

# GREAT SEATS AVAILABLE

Multiple sofa groupings make immense room manageable

BY SUE DOERFLER / THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

**T**oday's great rooms can be so large that sofas and accompanying chairs get lost in them. So many homeowners, such as Barbara and Mike McLean of Phoenix, are turning to an alternative solution: Creating numerous seating areas. The resulting look is less formal and more like the casual, inviting feel of a resort lobby. Look to the one at the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa, which offers a variety of seating choices, as a case in point.

"When you have such a grandly scaled space, it creates a more intimate environment," said Lindsey Schultz, designer with Ownby Design in Scottsdale. She worked with the McLeans in decorating their 5,000-square-foot hillside home.

The couple's great room, eight steps down from the entry, gives new meaning to the word "great." It features soaring 20-foot, pine-planked ceilings, original to the house, and floor-to-ceiling windows along the west and south walls that offer grand views of the hillside, desert vegetation, wildlife and the city. Along the north wall, the massive fireplace, another original feature, commands attention with stone face, mantel and hearth. On the east side, a half wall separates the great room from the dining room, which is on the same level as the foyer.

Before Schultz redesigned the space, the couple found it difficult to decorate.

Unlike most living areas, it did not have typical walls, which help facilitate furniture placement, Barbara McLean said. Instead, she and her husband faced a dilemma: Whether to obstruct the views by

putting furniture against the windows or whether to center the seating areas around the fireplace.

"If you did that, you can't look out the windows," Barbara said. It also meant that during parties, guests had nowhere to sit but on the fireplace hearth when conversing.

Several smaller seating areas — in front of the fireplace, by the west window and in the southwest corner — solve the problems.

The fireplace still serves as a focal point, but it doesn't overtake the room. It's an ideal spot for relaxing.

Two matching sofas, upholstered in taupe mo-hair and accented with dark-blue pillows, face each

See **SEATING** Page AH4

PHOTO BY BAXTER IMAGING • SPECIAL FOR THE REPUBLIC

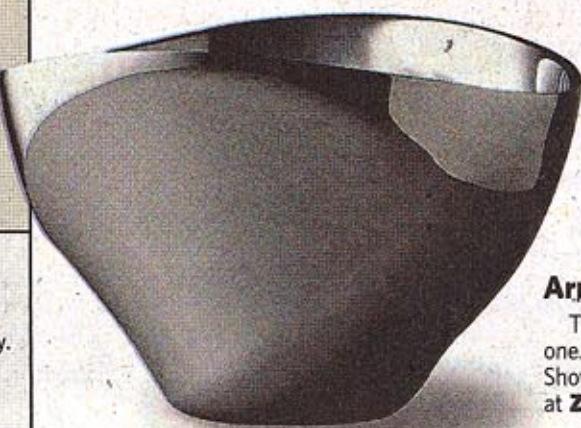
**GET THE LOOK**

## Accessorizing a casual lifestyle

The casual look blends fabric, wood and metal to create a comfortable, inviting space.

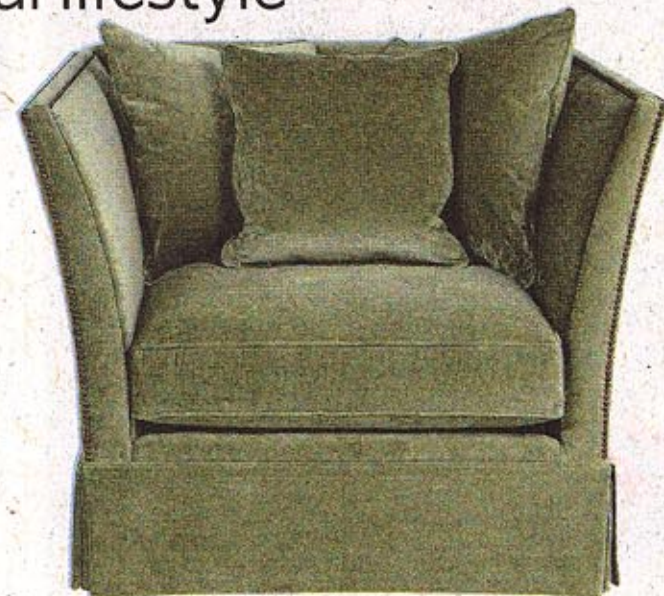
**Do the twist**

A subtle spiral effect sets this 9-inch-diameter Twist Bowl from Nambé apart from other metal bowls. Use it for display or as a serving dish, \$150 at **Neiman Marcus**. Scottsdale Fashion Square, Camelback and Scottsdale roads; 480-990-2100, [www.neimanmarcus.com](http://www.neimanmarcus.com).



**Armed with style**

The high sides of the Savoy chair lend flair in more ways than one. They're elegant, modern and classic at the same time. Shown in lentil; it's also available in buckwheat, \$1,099 to \$1,499 at **Z Gallerie**.



See **THE LOOK** Page AH4

**THE INSPIRATION**

## Where to get to the core of casual decor

With our sunny days and casual lifestyle, casual decor makes sense for our homes. Visit these places for inspiration for your casual-themed interior:

**Valley jewel**

Treat yourself to a night at the Jewel of the Desert, the **Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa**. Set on 39 lush acres and dotted with eight pools, the resort has a Frank Lloyd Wright influence with its eclectic and Mission-style furnishings. Relax in the lobby with its numerous seating areas. Pamper yourself in the Arizona Biltmore Spa and relax at an intimate dinner at Wright's. 2400 E. Missouri Ave., Phoenix; 602-955-6600, [www.arizonabiltmore.com](http://www.arizonabiltmore.com).

**Classic casual**

**Crate & Barrel's** two floors of home goods offer plenty of inspiration for decorating a table, a room or a house. Two Valley locations: Kierland Commons, 15220 N. Scottsdale Road, Phoenix, 480-998-9009, and Scottsdale Fashion Square, Scottsdale and Camelback roads, 480-945-1500, [www.crateandbarrel.com](http://www.crateandbarrel.com).

**Feather your nest**

Find the right piece of furniture or accessory, from sofas and coffee tables to lamps and vases, at **Nest** home decor store. 7000 E. Indian School Road, Scottsdale, 480-949-9300.

**The right look**

At **Pottery Barn**, style and comfort are key. You'll find everything from picture frames to sofas. Three Valley stores. Visit [www.potterybarn.com](http://www.potterybarn.com) for locations.

**Let your ideas blossom**

Make plans to incorporate a casual look in your decor while enjoying **Bloom's** fresh ingredients and American-inspired cuisine. The restaurant has a casual, contemporary feel with bright colors. 8877 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, 480-922-5666, [www.foxrestaurantconcepts.com](http://www.foxrestaurantconcepts.com).

— Sue Doerfler



Seating areas create intimate spaces and do not block outdoor views.

## Great room made more manageable

### SEATING

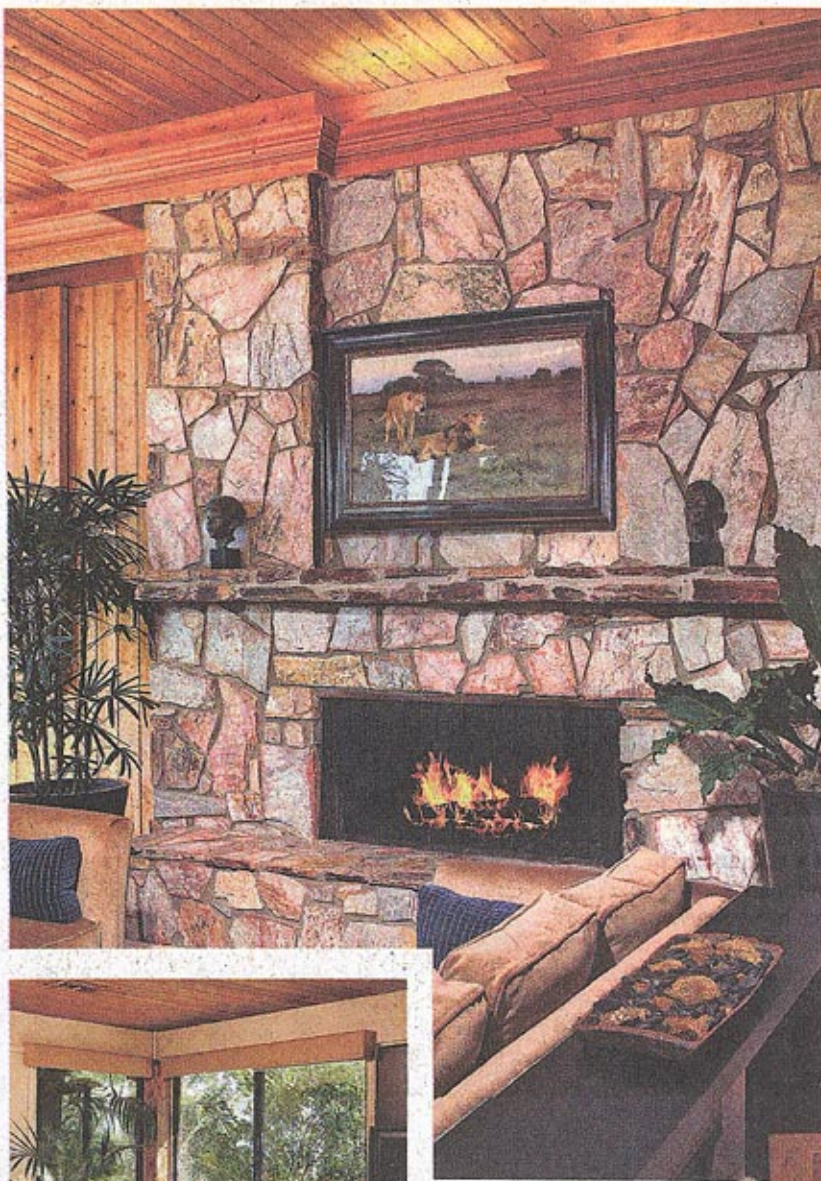
*Continued from AH1*

other in front of the fireplace. A set of three geometric tables, crafted of copper, can be moved together to form a larger coffee table. Set apart, they serve as individual side tables.

A third sofa, set back-to-back with a sofa in the fireplace arrangement, forms a second conversation area; it's paired with two chairs in a woven, light-taupe fabric. A modern lamp of repeating square shapes graces the side table, also made of copper.

The round table in the southwest corner is perfect for enjoying drinks at dusk: It offers great views of the sunset and city lights.

A display unit, made of contrasting dark and reddish-stained wood, serves as a divider between the corner seating area and the Yamaha baby grand piano, which lends a classic feel. The divider showcases the couple's collection of horse sculptures and hides the stereo equipment. Throughout the room, plants — anthurium ruffles, raphis palms and dracaena arborea —



Two matching sofas face each other in front of the massive stone fireplace.



PHOTOS BY BAXTER IMAGING

The family room repeats the same color palette, taupe and dark blue, that is found in the living room. The leather cubes can be used as a coffee table, individual tables or as seating.

bring the outdoors inside.

The room has a casual yet up-scale look with clean lines and a palette of taupes with accents of deep blue. Schultz kept colors neutral so that the room didn't feel too full. The soft shades also have a calming feel and don't detract from the landscape, which features palo-

verde trees. The blue accents work well with the hints of orange found in the stone of the fireplace and in the woods in the room, Schultz said. They carry out the blue theme found throughout the rest of the house, which features antiques mixed in with casual contemporary styling.

The McLeans are pleased with the room's tranquil, inviting look and have a hard time agreeing on their favorite spot.

"Instead of being focused on the fireplace, we're focused on the whole room," Mike McLean said.

Reach the reporter at [sue.doerfler@arizonarepublic.com](mailto:sue.doerfler@arizonarepublic.com) or 602-444-8236.



### Classic comfort

Match your sofa to your decor or match your decor to your sofa. The Arlington sofa comes in 65 fabric choices, \$1,599 to \$2,199, depending on upholstery, at **Pottery Barn**, locations Valley-wide; [www.potterybarn.com](http://www.potterybarn.com).

## Ideas for casual decor

### THE LOOK

*Continued from AH1*

### Beyond the box

The Stow Leather Storage Ottoman isn't the typical box that holds your feet. Pop the lid and use the interior for storage. Turn the lid over and use it for a serving tray. Put the lid back on and use the ottoman for a seat or coffee table. Choose from red, ivory and chocolate leather, \$169 at **Crate & Barrel**.



### Keep it simple

Two-toned wood adds a striking appearance to the Aldo Console Table. Place it behind a couch or in a hallway or foyer, \$499 at **Crate & Barrel**, locations Valley-wide; [www.crateandbarrel.com](http://www.crateandbarrel.com).

### Majestic

Give a regal look to a shelf or table with the Imperial Resin Horse. \$16.95 at **Z Gallerie**, locations Valley-wide; [www.zgallerie.com](http://www.zgallerie.com).

— Sue Doerfler

