

MODERN LUXURY

Interiors

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Travertine block-clad accent walls are a textural contrast to the exterior's smooth white stucco planes. The grid-patterned gate leads to the backyard.

C.P. DREWETT AND CLAIRE OWNBY CREATE A MODERN RETREAT IN A COMMUNITY THAT WAS ONCE THE SITE OF A PRIVATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By David M. Brown // Illustration by Thomas Photography



home

Schools

more than 50 years,

Paradise Valley property was home to a school. It's now a luxe development, a quartet of high-achieving modern dining one for a Chicago couple, as a winter retreat.

The home—initially built as a spec—silt, the husband and wife, seasonal guests for more than 30 years, said, "That was that," the wife the first visit to the house.

Interior firm Drewett Works and developers, the forces behind the development, had, in effect, been creating a custom home for the community, which received a 2019 Best Award for architectural design and excellence. The community's combination includes a location close to shopping, dining and cultural resources in Phoenix; stellar views of Camelback and Mummy mountains; and modern architectural style.

At C.P. Drewett's elegant, restrained blueprint and builder Rich's meticulous attention to its details, the approximately 5,700-square-foot house that includes four en suite bedrooms, an office and a four-car garage. The home was designed using planes, massing and keeping with a midcentury-modern aesthetic," Drewett explains, "but



Clockwise from top: White lacquer and walnut cabinetry, as well as two islands, mark the kitchen and breakfast area; a guest bedroom features restful neutrals; the glassed-in wine room forms the backdrop for the dining area.





foot ceiling, clerestory and
to-ceiling windows, plus a
ing dual-sided fireplace are
great room's architectural



From left: The pool, pool patio and gravel-filled planter beds echo the home's geometric appeal; opposite the great room, a shaded, furnished patio extends the home's living areas into the outdoors.



design details

RESIDENCE

Single-family home

LOCATION

Paradise Valley

ARCHITECTURE

C.P. Drewett,
Drewett Works
drewettworks.com

BUILDER

BedBrock Developers
bedbrock.com

INTERIOR DESIGN

Claire Ownby,
Ownby Design
ownbydesign.com

LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Sunset Landscaping
602.867.1697

POOL BUILDER

Mossman Brothers Pools
mossmanbrotherspools.com

resources

ARTERIOS

Lamps
arteriorshome.com

AZADI FINE RUGS

Interior rugs
azadifinerugs.com

BOTANICAL ELEGANCE

Interior plants
botanicalegance.com

DISTINCTIVE CUSTOM CABINETRY

Cabinetry
distinctiveecc.com

ELITE MODERN

Dining and breakfast chairs, bar stools
elitemodern.com

PETER THOMAS DESIGNS

Custom breakfast, coffee and sofa tables
peterthomasdesigns.com

RH

Bedroom and patio furnishings
restorationhardware.com

VILLAGIO TILE & STONE

Tile
villagiotile.com

modernizing it for current building standards.”

Outside, these offset planes are differentiated by white and gray metal fascia. On vertical walls and columns, split-faced silver travertine blocks dramatically alternate and contrast with smooth white stucco.

Consistent with its modernist ethos, the home is supported on a steel post-and-beam structure, which means open interior spaces without columns. The central great room, for example, connects with the kitchen, breakfast room and dining area for expansive entertaining opportunities. Large windows provide daylight and frame scenic vignettes.

“While the dining room shares space with the great room, it is a recessed area with a change in ceiling height and materiality,” Drewett explains. “The kitchen is connected and open, yet it has privacy from the dining room.” Changes in ceiling heights, material and recessing of spaces mitigates the sounds and livability issues that can occur between kitchens and great rooms.

“I enjoy the feeling of discovery when entering each room,” says Darrin Kauer, project superintendent for BedBrock. “There are some consistencies throughout the house with some of the materials that were used, but each space has its own feeling and gives you the sense of adventure when entering a new room in the home.”

The owners engaged interior designer Claire Ownby to provide furnishings and accessories complementing the architecture. “We wanted a peaceful, relaxed, fun and comfortable retreat where we could gather and entertain our grown-

up family,” the wife recalls. “We wanted it to be more like a resort villa that we didn’t have to worry about. So, it had to be user-friendly and pet-friendly for our standard poodle.”

These overall themes of consistency and subtle space differences continue throughout Ownby’s design. In this spirit, she used a monochromatic palette with gray tones. “Since this house is used as a second home,” Ownby explains, “we wanted to keep the spaces very calm and quiet to create an inviting retreat. The tone-on-tone variation from the wallpaper, paint colors and fabrics reinforces this concept.”

Rooms and corridors include focal-point furnishings, built-ins, wall finishes, throw rugs and “touch-me” accessories. “My clients requested that their modern home have a casual and comfortable feel to it,” Ownby says, “and one of the most successful ways to create this feeling is through natural materials and textures.” In the dining room, for example, the glass wine cabinet, set against travertine blocks, displays wine bottles as works of art, while an acacia dining room table from Thailand has been distressed and meticulously polished to a slightly undulating finish. Petrified wood blocks in the great room and a photographic triptych of succulents in one guest room also reiterate the design theme.

“We love it,” says the wife, who enjoys remotely adjusting the fountains and lights of her Arizona smart home from her much more traditional, antique-rich Chicago one. “Now that my husband is retired, we plan to spend more time there each year. We can’t wait to get back.”