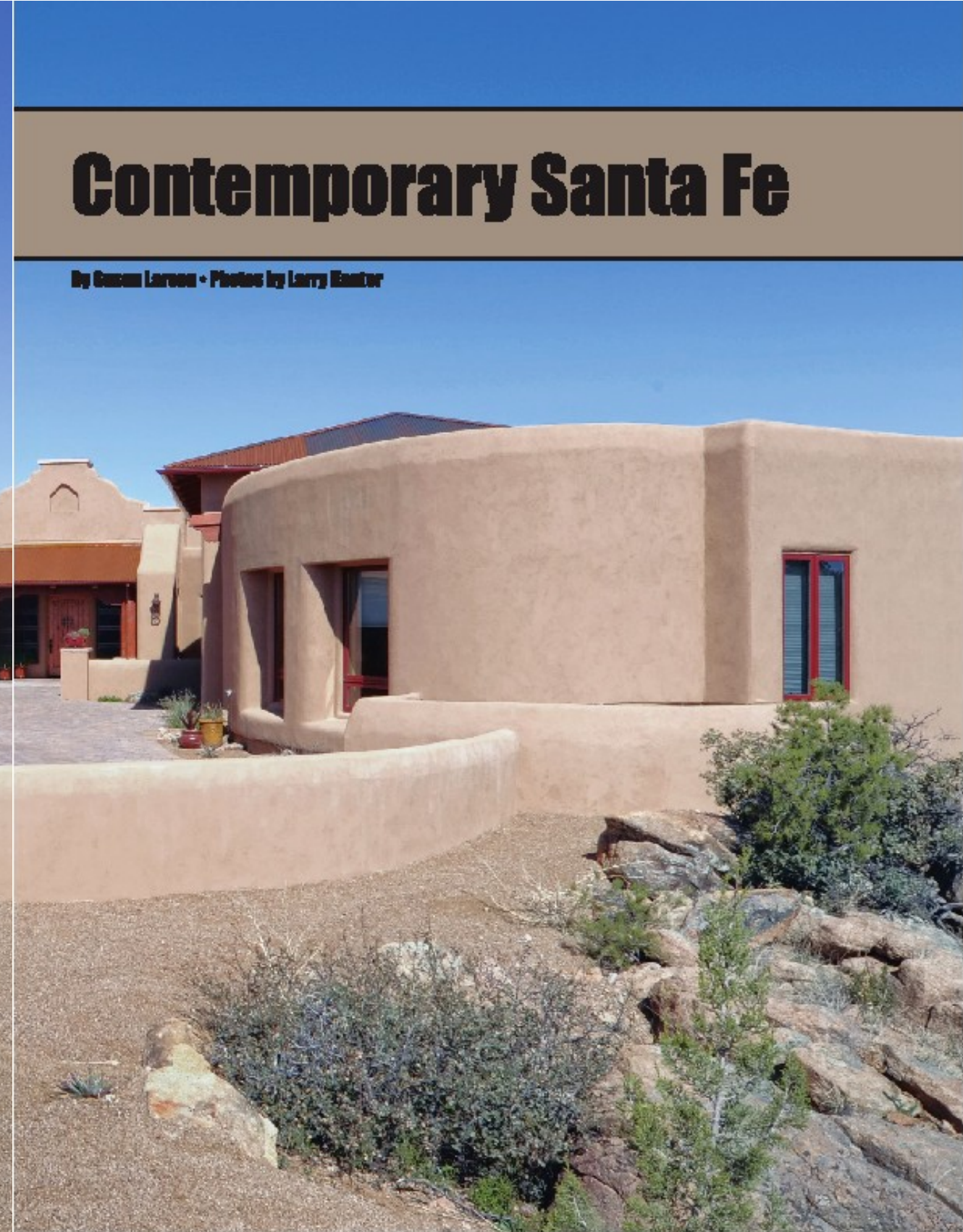


Contemporary Santa Fe

By Susan Larson • Photos by Larry Renter



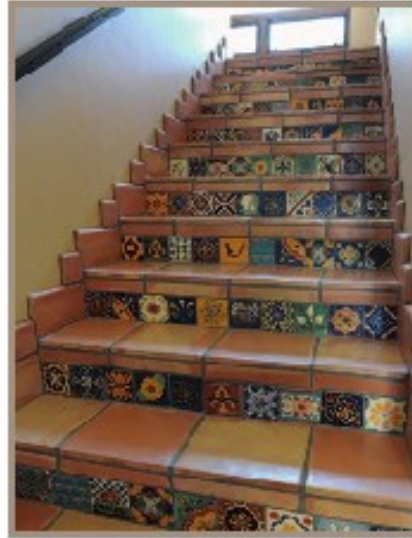


To find your way to Bill and Kelly Robbiano's dream home in American Ranch, the directions go something like this: follow the sign to the campground, past the tree farm and the tavern, cross two bridges, and when it starts to look like you've entered a fairy tale wilderness, you're almost there.

It does seem serendipity was at work. Bill and Kelly had just barely moved into their new home at Hasayampa Golf Club when Bill was out driving around and happened upon a vacant lot for sale at American Ranch. He called Kelly on the phone and said "I think we need to buy this lot."

"While Hasayampa is a great neighborhood and it was a great house, we always knew we wanted to be someplace maybe a little more rural," Kelly said. The couple had lived in beautiful, scenic areas prior to Arizona, including Colorado Springs, CO, and Kailua-Kona, HI. They came to Arizona from Santa Barbara, CA, where they lived in a Rancho Encinitas area. When they learned that a scenic ridge-top area was going to be developed, Bill and Kelly started thinking about moving away. They got tipped off to Prescott by their FedEx delivery woman. In a few days they came to Prescott for a visit, and got hooked on the small city, rural atmosphere.

The next day Bill and Kelly saw the



...every stair rise is inlaid with beautiful tiles Kelly hand-selected.

American Ranch lot with a realtor. The price on the lot had just gone down. They put their Hasayampa house — where they had lived for only two months — on the market and started working with an architect, Todd Naeke, to design their new home.

Because they cherished the rural setting and the natural wilderness of the Granite Mountain wilderness that first drew them in, the Robbianos set out to build a home that caused as little disturbance to the landscape as possible. Kelly describes it as being "masaged into the land." From Williamson Valley Road, Kelly says you can see the house — but barely — because it was made to blend into the mountain behind it.

Bill, a retired contractor, and Kelly were fully hands-on in the design of the home. While they waited for their home in Hasayampa to sell, they took frequent walks through a home under construction in their current neighborhood. They eventually hired that builder, Robert Board, of Board by Board Construction, to build their "contemporary Santa Fe" style home at American Ranch.

Bill was impressed with how both the architect and builder respected the wish to preserve the landscape. "Robert was





Alarm Electronics & Communications

Since 1987

Is your alarm system working properly?

Is your alarm company still in business?

Is Your Home Safe?



- Security Alarms
- Fire & Smoke Detection
- Personal Emergency Response Systems
- Home Theater
- UL Listed Monitoring

Protect your home and your family with a security and fire system, installed and monitored by local professionals serving northern Arizona for more than 28 years.

Call us for an evaluation...

AECMCA

Honeywell

(928) 308-1896

AEC@commspeed.net



The Robbians's

Bill and Kelly Robbians with their dog, Eli.

excellent about that. He strung a line around the house site, and he told his people, "You don't go outside this line for anything."

Kelly added, "Todd had his survey people come out and plot the trees - the big boulders and the views - and then we planned the house accordingly to that. So there are a lot of elevation changes in the house; it's because we followed the land."

From the sky downward, the home accommodates nature. The tin roof is naturally pleasing to the eye of the red wood-stained window trim and beams. Corbels accent the exterior overhangs with just a touch of designer flair. The exterior color of the home was chosen through Kelly's own method of matching the earth she sprinkled decomposed granite on paint chips until she found the perfect match.

Inside the oversized front door, a welcoming foyer leads a few steps down into a bright living room - this is where you first notice the many elevation changes. Steps lead up again to the kitchen. This is one of Kelly's most hands-on touches in the home - every stair riser is inlaid with beautiful tiles she hand-selected.

The kitchen island - a sweeping 7'2" x 8'6" of granite counter - is Kelly's favorite feature. "I love it because I really cook in this kitchen," she says. She loves to cook and serve for friends right there at the island. Functional cabinets surround the island with pull-out drawers and a mixer cabinet. The appliances are Subzero and

Who Said Hormones & Health Have To Be Expensive?

"Ask the Expert!"

So Unique,
So SottoPelle®

Life...Change...
Naturally.

For information call
877.247.8577



PRESCOTT OFFICE

1003 Division St. ■ Ste. 7 ■ Prescott ■ AZ 86301

SEVING OFFICE

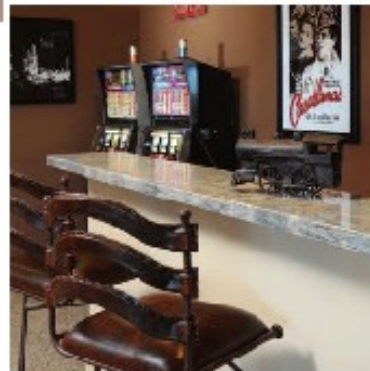
8490 Highway 179 ■ Ste. 107 ■ Sedona ■ AZ 86351

www.sottopelletherapy.com





"I love it because I really cook in this kitchen."
- Kelly Robinson



Wolf, including a free standing refrigerator and freezer with cabinet fronts. Her firstwater collection is nicely displayed in glass front, paneled cabinets. Her other favorite feature: a custom-made window over the sink that allows an uninterrupted view when she opens it.

Kelly kept with the Santa Fe feel and placed talavera tiles as a backsplash over the six-burner Wolf stovetop. "For a



whole year I kept rearranging the patterns until I came up with a pattern I liked," she laughed.

Christie Board of Board by Board designed the kitchen, which recently won an "Outstanding Kitchen Design award" for Sub-Zero/Wolf. She commented, "It's laid out beautifully with several work surfaces, and every

(Continued on page 64)



(Continued from page 59)

element ties into the feel of the house. Not only is it visually beautiful but it's functional."

Off the kitchen is a spacious pantry, set behind an 8-foot, knotty alder wood door. The dining room is a clear focal point with a large arch window framing a view of the boulders, trees and mountainside that make up the wilderness area. Also a special touch in the dining room: a restored Hoosier hutch that once belonged to Kelly's great grandmother. "That was her entire kitchen," entire kitchen," she noted.

Both living room spaces in the home feature fireplaces – the largest living room sunken just off the foyer entrance, and the smaller sitting room near the dining room and kitchen has a lava fireplace.

Just up the stairs from the dining area Kelly points out the talavera tile stairs that she bought online as odd lots. It's one of her favorite parts of the entire house.

"My whole thing is that when I come around a corner I just want it to make me smile," she said.

The upstairs area of the house is Kelly's domain. "Bill got his man-cave, I got the upstairs," she comments. It contains

her study, with a veranda overlooking the home's sweeping front drive and valley view. Adjacent to the study is a guest bath with tub and shower – pleasantly tiled with more talavera and terracotta field tiles. A large guest room is just next by.

Back down through the kitchen and to the other side of the home is where you become aware of the curvature of the house. The front of the home is built in the shape of a horse shoe. An exercise room and bath are just across from a triptych of windows set into a curved wall that lead to Bill's man-cave. Inside, this spacious room is anything but cave-like. Bright and open, window treatments exist only to keep glare off the flat panel television. A modest bar is in place to serve up drinks. Bill's computer room is adjacent. Like all other rooms in the home, the windows in Bill's space are a main feature of the room.

Kelly's plans for the future include cultivating herbaceous roses in the front entrance garden, with cuttings from her family garden. Now settled into their private paradise, Kelly and Bill are just enjoying their retirement days. Bill works on model trains and numerous hobbies. Kelly indulges her love for animals vol-



unteering with therapy dog, Rani, at the VA Hospital, hiking and playing tennis.

"We're finally home, we're done. We planted the house for us and we indulged ourselves," Kelly said. "I can't think of where we could have the quality of life we have here."

Thumb Butte (Cont from page 35)

prohibited to allow nesting peregrine falcons the privacy they require to procreate and raise their young.

Bicycles are prohibited on Trail 33, but there are several other trails and roads in the immediate area that allow cyclists.

With its steep and steady climb, the Thumb Butte Trail 33 can be a good option for those training for an upcoming hike in the Grand Canyon to get your body used to steep switchback hiking. Due to its relatively short distance, some may opt to hike the loop twice in a row to increase the cardiovascular workout.

In addition to Trail 33, the Thumb Butte Recreation Area has a myriad of other trails in the immediate area offering many choices to explore.

At the parking lot, the upper stretches of Miller Creek pass right through before continuing down near the Prescott Rodeo Grounds and over to Granite Creek Park in downtown Prescott. The parking area has several picnic locations in the immediate vicinity.

Getting There: From Prescott's downtown Courthouse Plaza take Corley Street west until it takes a significant bend and becomes Thumb Butte Road. Continue west as the road makes a significant sharp up to the recreation area, in all about three miles from the Courthouse Plaza.