



"It has a nostalgic theme that reflects classy kitsch of the West; we were insistent that we have a stand-alone casita."

- Paul Hobson

Talking Rock Home's Casita *Stretches Living Space* Inside and Out



By *Tow Callahan*
Photos by *Larry Kauter*

After raising their family just outside of Sun Valley, Idaho, Phil and Kate Hobson decided to sell the "dream home" they had built there and relocate to Arizona.

With their two daughters grown and with families of their own in southern California and New Mexico, the Prescott area made a lot of sense. Choosing to build their newest home in the Talking Rock community just north of town was an easy choice, too.

The secluded golf-course community has a tight-knit group of homeowners,

golfers, friends and staff, that keep their social calendar full, the Hobsons say.

Their home is a relatively modest two-bedroom, two-and-a-half bathroom home with a dramatic 15-foot fireplace in the great room, and inviting outdoor spaces.

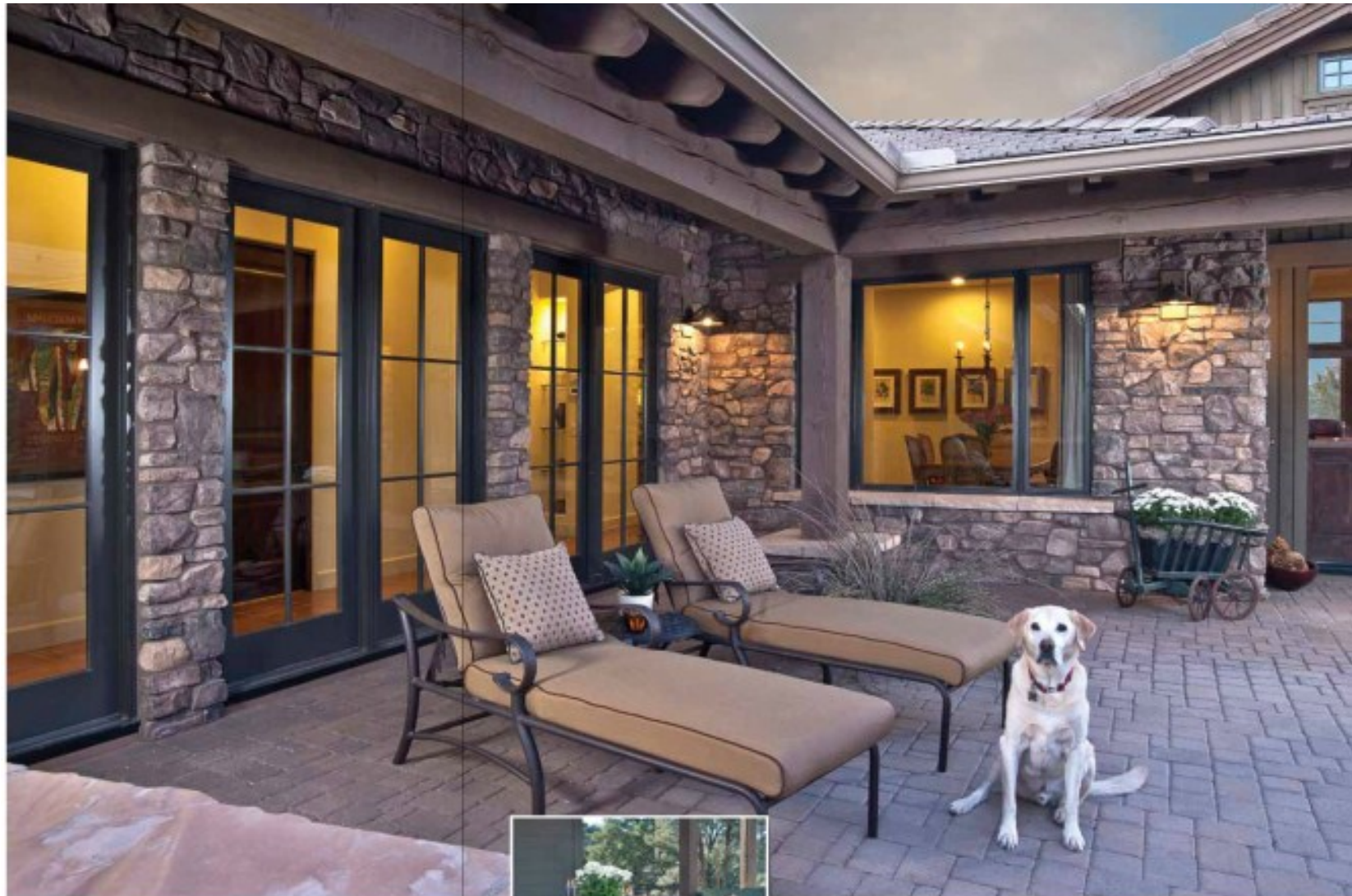
One of the home's unique features is a separated casita space that works for hosting guests with just the right amount of privacy.

"It has a nostalgic theme that reflects classy kitsch of the West; we were insistent that we have a stand-alone casita," Phil said. "For our guests it's just the right amount of privacy."

The casita, which was originally

designed to be in another location on the property, is about 20 feet from the front door and helps to define the home's entry courtyard. The courtyard is complete with a mosaic of smaller paving stones, deep porches, hanging lanterns and plenty of windows to keep the indoor and outdoor spaces connected.

Like much of the Talking Rock community (Kate serves on the architectural review committee), the Hobsons' home has a definite western-ranch flavor with plenty of privacy and is surrounded by native landscaping including mature pinyon pines and junipers with views of the golf course



The courtyard is complete with a mosaic of smaller paving stones, deep porches, hanging lanterns and plenty of windows to keep the indoor and outdoor spaces connected.



and rolling hills outside their living room window.

Located on a gentle slope, the home's driveway bends down into a private space with a low stucco wall that encloses the entry courtyard. With ample windows facing into the courtyard, the home has an open feeling while retaining a sense of privacy.

The home has nearly 800 linear feet

of exterior walls covered with stones that were harvested right on the building site, Phil said.

In fact, Phil's golfing buddies would give him a hard time during construction while the machinery was banging away on the rocks, interrupting their 18-hole outings.

Inside the home, the ranch style continues, but the Hobsons wanted to



...a large kitchen with a granite island that Phil says is more "continent than island."



with the opportunity to view and study several home styles and features. Having lived in the west most of their lives, the Hobsons had an understanding of the rustic sophistication they wanted the house to embody, making it a comfortable place to live and entertain while reflecting the local landscape and cultural influences.

The couple began construction on

this home in 2008, and were living in it by 2009; during construction they lived only a minute away from the site. Both retired, Phil as a firefighter in southern California before re-inventing himself as a private jet pilot in Idaho, they enjoyed being close to the project.

"Robert (Board) was so patient during the construction process," Kate said. "He would call us a couple of times a



day to ask our opinion about different projects within the home."

The great room, like much of the home, has wide open windows with a view that includes a section of the golf course, green rolling hills, and no other homes in their view.

Adjacent to the great room, is a large kitchen with a granite island that Phil says is more "continent than island."

Outside the kitchen is the home's back patio with a northwestern orientation that takes in the breadth of the desert beyond. The deep patio has a roof covering a space 28-feet deep and 24 feet wide, complete with a full outdoor dining table, elegant outdoor furniture and gas fireplace with a massive, stone mantle. The depth of the porch makes the western exposure comfortable during Arizona's warm afternoons, they say.

The fireplace on the back patio is lined up and facing the fireplace in the home's great room. The two opposing fireplaces and the window above the kitchen sink provide a lovely illusion. With a fire roaring in the great room, if a person were to pass through the kitchen the reflection in that window gives one a sense of a fire burning in both places at once.

The main house has walnut hardwood floors throughout, while the casita has handsome stained concrete floors. All the doors are eight feet tall and the





hallway from the garage to the main room includes a small seating area that serves as a mudroom. The hallway is lined on one side with windows out to the home's entry courtyard.

"We like that the eye can travel further through the windows to the outside. It feels bigger," Phil said.

The master bedroom includes four high windows for light with privacy, and a sliding glass door leads out to yet another stone patio space. The master bathroom is open and spacious with an all-glass shower and a garden tub that looks out into a private nook of the front courtyard with a large water feature dedicated to bathers.

Years ago, when the couple first moved to Idaho, they built a rustic lodge-style home with heavy beams and posts. They both remember fondly how their girls grew up as trout fishermen, and how they would have to ring a cow bell in order to get them to come home.

**"We like that the eye can travel further through the windows to the outside. It feels bigger."
- Phil Hobson**

Phil beams with pride as he tells how their daughter in New Mexico continues to fly fish on a regular basis, and that "she is a guide-quality fisherman."

Sometime later, with both of their careers booming, the Hobsons built a new home, that they both thought would be their forever "dream" home. The massive structure took the lodge style to the max and included three master suites and a separate apartment above the home's garage, a large stone

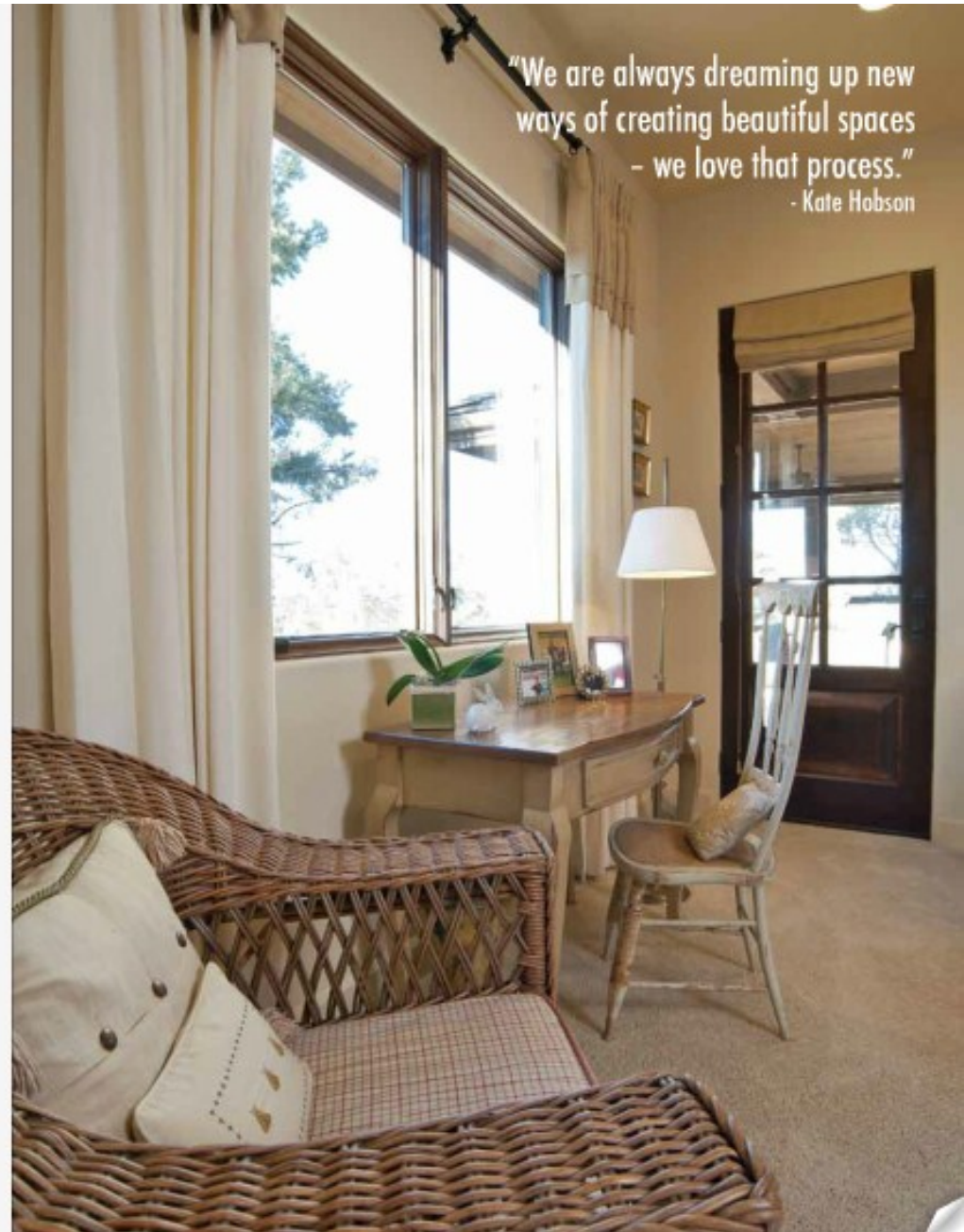
fireplace and a wine cellar in the basement.

Now in Arizona, their home is not nearly as large, but evokes a quieter grandeur. Their outdoor living spaces make up for any less space under their roof.

Wildlife in their remote location is abundant with the usual local fare of javelina, coyotes and deer, but also bobcats, mountain lions and predatory owls that frequent the area.

Throughout the process of building these three homes in three decades, the Hobsons have found that they really enjoy taking the vision of a home and making it a reality through construction. While quite settled in their newest home, they both can imagine taking new ideas and creating another home in the future.

"We are always dreaming up new ways of creating beautiful spaces – we love that process," Kate said.



**"We are always dreaming up new ways of creating beautiful spaces – we love that process."
- Kate Hobson**