

Handsome Balance

A team of creative thinkers blends salvaged materials with modern elements, melding European, big-city loft, and desert influences into one inviting home.

WRITER JODY GARLOCK
PHOTOGRAPHER BRIE WILLIAMS
PRODUCER JESSICA BRINKERT HOLTAM

Dana and Miesje Corbo's entry hall, which connects the home's public and private wings, showcases the home's signature mix of wood, stone, and steel. The floors are made from reclaimed Kentucky barn wood.



THIS PHOTO: Three walls of windows brighten the wood-clad sitting room off the kitchen. "The home will be timeless as the old materials age gracefully," architect Mark Candelaria says. OPPOSITE: The home's low profile and rugged stone-and-stucco exterior allow it to blend into its desert surroundings.



Dana Corbo has become accustomed to the puzzled looks when visitors step inside his Scottsdale, Arizona, home. The looks are a good kind of puzzled—a combination of surprise and fascination at how a home that sprawls against a mountainous desert backdrop manages to be both old-world and modern. "It's hard to describe or put a label on what style of home it is," Dana says.

Indeed, the home that Dana shares with his wife, Miesje, and their four children is an anomaly. There are Tuscan influences—such as an abundance of stone and rustic ceiling beams—that add a collected-over-time look. But the couple also took inspiration from trendy urban restaurants, incorporating industrial and natural elements more common to a loft than a family home. To architect Mark Candelaria, the home is a classic Arizona ranch hacienda with fresh contemporary twists. Builder Ron Barney simply laughs when asked his take. "It's hard to describe; it's not really any one style," he says. "We have new, we have old, we have modern, we have reclaimed. That's what made this one so fun."

The house's mix of styles mirrors its creative collaboration process. While Candelaria staked the rough plan on site in order to maximize views from each room, interior designer Caroline Tyler DeCesare, who worked with interior designer Kelsey Webb Hunzeker on the project, took the Corbos to Round Top, Texas. They spent days scouring the world-famous flea market, where they snagged old French doors, rustic light fixtures, and character-rich furnishings. Over dinner, they plotted where their finds would go, sometimes shifting the plans to accommodate them. "I think the best spaces are designed from the inside out," DeCesare says. "Start with the things you touch—the cabinets and furniture and hardware—then build outward."

Textures run deep across the home with wood, stone, brick, fabricated steel, and Venetian plaster surfaces united by consistent repetition. For the Corbos, the balance of rough and refined adds up to a warm, welcoming home. "The day we moved in," Dana says, "it felt like we had been living here for years."

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“People appreciate materials that have a story. If something is already rustic, kids can’t ruin it. It lives well, and it’s forgiving.”

— INTERIOR DESIGNER
CAROLINE TYLER DECESARE

LEFT: The kitchen’s pièce de résistance is a custom range hood suspended by cables above a 15-foot-long island. A draftsman spent weeks creating a cardboard prototype, which interior designer Caroline Tyler DeCesare hung to make sure the proportions were right before a local steel fabricator crafted the final piece. “If it was too chunky, it was going to overwhelm the space,” she says. BELOW: Steel-framed bifold doors connect an outdoor dining area to the kitchen. A pergola and plantings provide shade by day, and a wood-burning fireplace warms the scene on cool desert nights.





OPPOSITE: Tongue-and-groove paneling lines bookcases in Miesje's office. CLOCKWISE, FROM ABOVE LEFT: Dana's office is attired in a sea of barnwood. Sliding shutterlike doors frame French doors on a patio outside of Dana's office. DeCesare converted a vintage chest into a vanity in the powder room. White painted bricks lend Miesje's office an urban edge. The dining room's gas fireplace is raised to seated eye level. The kids' bedrooms open onto a common room. Industrial chic windows and doors recall greenhouses of the 19th century. Shiplap walls add textural interest to a bedroom.





THIS PHOTO: Gently aged white-oak planks clad the walls and ceiling in the master bedroom. OPPOSITE LEFT: Reclaimed ceiling beams define the corridorlike master bath, which houses vanities and a storage hutch on one side; doors on the right open to a shower room. OPPOSITE RIGHT: Steel doors within the master shower open to a private garden and courtyard. "Even though the surfaces are clean and simple, the steel doors and exterior rubble stone walls create a transitional blend of old with modern," Candelaria says.

Floor plan

TOTAL SQ. FT: 7,900
 BEDROOMS: 5
 BATHROOMS: 4 full, 2 half



Floor plan © Candelaria Design Associates