

85255

North Scottsdale's
Premier Communities

1st
Anniversary
Issue

SLICE OF LIFE

3 Tomatoes & A
Mozzarella: Thinking
outside the pizza box

LIVIN' LODGE

The Gardon family feels
right at home in their
cabin-inspired abode

SPECIAL THEME ISSUE

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WITH EXCEPTIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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*Warm and inviting
describes the ambiance
of the Gardon home
in DC Ranch.*



Gardon Variety

Dale and Mary Gardon's cabin-inspired home exudes the warmth, closeness and charm of family life



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*The Gardon Family:
(left to right) Mary,
Trevor, Dale and Tyler.*



At first glance, you know that the DC Ranch home of Dale and Mary Gardon is special. Inspired by early ranch-style homes and mountain cabins, Dale—an architect and planner with Scottsdale-based Dale Gardon Design—designed his family's home to reflect his beliefs about the functionality of homes and how people live in them. The result is a charming home that exudes a lively energy.



Unique architectural elements include the natural wood beamed gabled ceiling in the living room (left) and the wood porch complete with lazy rocking chairs (bottom left). The natural color palette creates a warm yet sophisticated effect, evident in the guest bathroom (above).

As planner and architect of such upscale master planned communities as DC Ranch and Verrado, as well as golf clubs and custom homes, Dale Gardon has worked on projects where space is not an issue. But in his own home, he's all about utilizing every last nook and cranny.

"I fully believe in multipurpose spaces," says Dale as he points to the great room that serves as the family and living rooms as well as the theater room. "We're always in the kitchen and dining space, eating and talking or watching TV. Having so many separate areas just didn't make sense."

To delineate the kitchen, dining and living areas, Dale used varying floor levels and architectural elements such as a raised counter that serves as a kitchen backsplash on one side and as a wall in the living space on the other. A centrally located desk and message center is also creatively ensconced on an angle on the opposite side of the kitchen.

One of the most unique and signature features of the 3,400-square-foot home built by Salcito Custom Homes is a room-for-two dining nook between the kitchen and dining space.

"It's our booth," says Mary of her favorite spot to relax with coffee and the morning paper. "Dale noticed how we always asked for a booth when we went out





A masterpiece in space and efficiency, the Gardon family utilizes every bit of space in their expertly-planned home with the help of built-in bookcases, storage nooks and a centrally-located desk and message center.

to eat and the idea just clicked."

The slate and faux-rust fireplace anchors the living areas and carries the eye up toward the stunning natural wood beamed gabled ceiling. Mary's birdhouse collection is perched happily amongst the beams, while a series of windows provide a healthy dose of light yet are positioned so glare is minimized.

Relaxing Abode

Through the expansive windows to the east, views of the mountains in the distance are accentuated by the charm of the home's deeply shaded front porch. Lazy rocking chairs and a comfortable dining ensemble beckon to be used. Not surprisingly, the Gardon family spends a lot of time on the porch.

"We live in the front of our home," explains Dale. "The main porch and all our interior family areas are in the front of the house."

The primary flooring throughout the house is a high-quality wood laminate chosen for its durability—of particular concern to the Gardons with two teen sons, Trevor, 13, and Tyler, 15.

"You can't imagine all the things that are ridden, pushed or pulled through this house," laughs Mary.

Slate is installed in the kitchen and bathrooms and carpet is used sparingly. With wall colors and accents of pale yellow, sage green and rust, the home's color palette is fresh and peaceful.

A testament to space efficiency and creative design, the hall features built-in

bookcases and a roomy cedar window seat for special storage. The couple's home office is complete with two desks, plenty of storage and Dale's drafting table. Wide sliding doors bring in welcome light and offer an unobstructed view of the back yard and beyond.

Just off the hall is the powder room—featuring corrugated metal as a portion of the walls—that also doubles as the guestroom's bathroom with a shower when a second door is accessed. The space triples as the outdoor bathroom with a third door that opens onto the back yard. A clever, innovative use of space once again.

Family Living

The master suite is a delight with its interesting ceiling angles, natural light and



The Gardons can enjoy a cozy meal within the confines of a unique dining booth (above) or relax by the outdoor fire pit made private by a partially open concrete block wall (right).

soothing yellow tones. A chaise lounge relaxes in the cozy reading corner of the bedroom, which also enjoys the backyard views. The master bathroom with its shower, bath and appliance garage on the countertop, is uniquely designed to conserve space yet feel expansive. And the closets, particularly "his," are models of efficiency. Tucked inside Dale's sunlight-filled space is a fold-up treadmill, set of weights and a television set.

Upstairs is the boys' suite with a common area in between each son's room and the shared bathroom. A rectangular table for homework and board games sits in the center of the room near the oversized reading nook that sometimes doubles as an extra bed when friends sleep over. In one corner, a drum set sits at the ready and in

the other, two cushy chairs face a large television with computers nearby.

Outside, landscape designer Tim Bonnin designed a pleasing blend of grass and native desert. Keeping with the theme, Dale designed a partial open wall of concrete block on the corner of the property to give a sense of privacy to the fire pit and circular seating, yet open enough to truly enjoy nature, including the occasional visitors like javelina, coyote and deer.

For the Gardons, living in the beauty of the North Scottsdale desert is a perfect fit for their lifestyle. In fact, the family was living in Fountain Hills when Dale began designing the DC Ranch community.

"I knew right then that this is where we should be," he says. "And we couldn't be happier." ♦

