

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

# Your Home Your Way

Saturday, September 4, 2004

SECTION H

## Next Saturday

### Just your cup of tea

In your garden, grow many of the same caffeine-free ingredients — chamomile, lavender, lemon balm, mint and more — that are listed on the box of your favorite herbal-tea blend.

Your Home editor, Zada Blayton, 602.444.NEWS or zada.blayton@arizonarepublic.com

## 4 things you can learn from this issue

### INSPIRATION

**1** KB Home's Iron Mountain Ranch houses come in a variety of exterior architectural styles. Check them out. Model Home Review, HO6

### DO IT YOURSELF

**2** Ceiling fans don't actually cool a room. They make you feel cooler by creating a breeze. Consider these features when shopping for one. Saving Energy, HO10

### OUTSIDE

**3** Rain lilies are a delightful gang of summer bulbs, but without heavy rains, we can't enjoy their blooms. Arizona Gardening, Your Home 2

### REAL ESTATE

**4** When remodeling, people often overimprove their home for the neighborhood. These tips will steer you in the right direction. Your Home 2

# AN ARIZONA 'Sunset'

Idea house spotlights indoor/outdoor living

By Sue Doerfler  
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**T**he Sunset 2004 Southwest Idea House is a treasure trove of decorating, designing and landscaping inspiration.

The 4,000-square-foot home, a show home that opens Friday at Verrado in Buckeye, is the first Arizona home presented by Sunset magazine since it launched its idea-home program in 1998.

For Valley residents, that means the opportunity to walk through the house they will see in the pages of the magazine, said spokeswoman Lydia Lyons. The home is featured in Sunset's October issue.

Like the magazine, the house, which was built by Solcito Custom Homes of Scottsdale and is for sale for \$1.7 million, shows innovative building ideas and furnishings for Southwest homes. Among them:

- A Southwestern-style farmhouse.

Designed by Dale Gardon Design of Scottsdale, this style, which features gabled roof lines, dormer windows and set-back garage with barn-style doors, offers a laid-back alternative to the Santa Barbara and Tuscan styles that long have defined Valley housing.

It's a new look that borrows from the familiar. There are Midwestern influences: shutters, expansive and inviting front porch, mudroom and exterior siding. You'll find similarities to historic Phoenix homes: brick-lined walk-



A brick fireplace and wood flooring cozy up the kitchen and the main eating area of the home. There is no formal dining room.

Top right: Architect Dale Gardon is flanked by Steven Rogers (left), landscape architect, and Jamie Dundon, project manager at the Sunset Idea House.

Center right: Despite the gleaming modern appliances, the kitchen has a country feel.

Bottom right: Dormer windows in the master bedroom add another country touch to the home.



Photos by Ben Trapp/The Arizona Republic

### INSIDE

- Who's who: The architect, builder and design team. HO7
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## Avoid blow-and-go duct cleaners

By Stacy Downs  
Kansas City (Mo.) Star



John Matus/Kansas City (Mo.) Star  
Once air ducts are clean, expect improved energy efficiency in the house.

A remodeler in the 1980s accidentally dropped a sandwich inside an open vent in Myrna Dean's Kansas City home. It's been festering in the back of her mind ever since.

Dean has seen a barrage of air-duct cleaning ads in recent years, so she's considering having the service done in her home, but she has heard there can be drawbacks.

Indeed, air-duct cleaning is a buyer-beware industry, according to the National Air Duct

### INSIDE

What to expect of cleaning services and online resources. HO10

Cleaners Association, a professional organization based in Washington. Some companies, nicknamed "blow and go" businesses, don't have the proper equipment to suck out all the dirt. The association warns consumers to avoid gimmicks, such as \$99 whole-house specials and sweeping claims about health benefits.

Professional cleaners com-

plain about companies that use only shop vac-sized machines with 2-inch hoses. People should ask companies (talk to at least three) whether they use powerful gasoline-powered machines and hoses at least 10 inches in diameter, about the size of a dinner plate.

"Otherwise you're just stirring a bunch of stuff out of the air ducts without removing it," says Brad Kuhlmann, owner of Midwest Duct Cleaning Services in Merriam, Kan.

Homeowners can check

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John Matus/Kansas City (Mo.) Star  
Cleaners say they can vacuum three grocery bags of debris from the ducts of a 2,000-square-foot home.

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azcentral.com

Looking for that special entertainment idea? Log onto [home.azcentral.com](http://home.azcentral.com) for recipes, design tips, trends and more.

## Bargain of the week

### Gardening items up to 50 percent off

Kick off the fall planting season with discounted pots, pitchers, planters, bowls and leather gloves at Smith & Hawken's Kierland Commons store. A 9-inch crackle pot from the spring line is now \$12.99; 6-inch crackle pots are \$5.99. You'll find up to 75 percent off previously discontinued and damaged goods.

**DETAILS:** Smith & Hawken, 7030 E. Greenway Parkway, Phoenix. (480) 627-9911.



## Mortgages

Metro Phoenix

- 30-year fixed 5.94 (0.38 of a point)
- 15-year fixed 5.31 (0.37)
- 1-year ARM 3.56 (0.36)

Aug. 27 survey by HSH Associates

## Coming Wednesday

### Healthy appetite

Foods that appeal directly to the four tastes — bitter, sweet, sour and salt — can help us eat more healthfully.

In Food & Drink



# Inspiration



## Idea house embraces indoor/outdoor living

**'SUNSET'** from HO1

ways, a set-back garage. Features reminiscent of Grandma's farmhouse include built-in window seats and a country kitchen with a fireplace. For modern-day needs, the kitchen has commercial-style appliances.

■ Alternatives to exteriors typically seen on the Valley's new homes.

Instead of plain stucco walls, this two-story home features a metal roof, stone chimney, fiber-cement siding, wood trim, stucco and a new exterior color scheme.

You won't see desert dirt colors. Instead, rich tones of yellow, sage, gray and terra cotta mirror those of desert vegetation.

The garage does not dominate the exterior of the home. It is set back on the lot, buffered by a mini porte-cochere that hides it from street view.

■ Casual living spaces instead of formal rooms.

The nook, next to a cozy fireplace at one end of the kitchen, serves as the main eating area. This setup encourages family get-togethers, and you won't miss the dining room.

There is a living room of sorts, but here it's called a gathering room.

Wood flooring and yellow Venetian plaster walls complemented by comfortable furniture in earthy tones make the room cozy instead of formidable.

"There's no TV in here,

### Of particular interest

■ The stairway's landing, which is two steps from the bottom, features architecturally elegant wood balusters.

■ The stylish but simple concrete-trough sink in the guest bath.

■ The faux stone of the gathering room's fireplace, which was given a grout wash to make the stone look aged.

■ White molding that dresses up interior doors.

■ Honed black-granite kitchen countertops that resemble soapstone.

■ The ceramic-tile backsplash behind the stove that looks like old terra-cotta pavers.

■ The built-in china cabinets at each end of the kitchen island.

■ The task lights that hang above the island adjust to various heights as needed.

■ A mud room for sports bags, dirty shoes and like materials.

■ The laundry room, which doubles as a craft center.

■ The driveway in front of the garage, which is a sports court. Also, the small building that's part of the porte-cochere is designed to hold sports equipment.

■ The Zen-like master bathroom. It's intimate and simple, yet modern.

### Who's who

**ARCHITECT:** Dale Gordon Design, 8390 E. Via de Ventura, Suite F200, Scottsdale. (480) 948-9666.

**BUILDER:** Sakito Custom Homes, 8714 E. Vista Bonita Drive, Suite 101, Scottsdale. (480) 585-5065. [www.sakito-customhomes.com](http://www.sakito-customhomes.com).

**INTERIOR DESIGNER:** Tamm Jasper Interiors, 4060 N. Craftsman Court, Suite 104, Scottsdale. (480) 423-3561.

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:** Sonoran Desert Designs, 30555 N. 59th St., Cave Creek. (480) 595-6400. [www.sonoran-deserthomes.com](http://www.sonoran-deserthomes.com).

just each other's company," said Scottsdale interior designer K.T. Thamm. She decorated the home with a team of designers from Tamm Jasper Interiors.

■ Indoor/outdoor living that goes beyond a patio and courtyard.

Numerous exterior doors — 11 on the first floor, three on the second — show the importance of this feature. Most Valley homes have only a front door and a sliding door to the back patio.

In the kitchen, a Dutch door — divided horizontally into two parts — allows you to open the top half for fresh air or to call the kids

for dinner while the lower section remains closed.

Three doors lead to a peaceful meditation patio on the side of the house. It has a hammock and water sculpture.

An outdoor living room and dining room extend the livable space.

The game room is outside. A retractable cloth cover makes this space usable year-round.

Other features include a pool, enclosed outdoor shower, vegetable garden, elevated fire pit with seating that overlooks Raven Golf Club at Verrado and views of the White Tank Mountains.

■ Drought-tolerant landscaping.

Plants, some growing tall, others spilling over, line concrete pots on the front porch. They are colorful and inviting. Twin mesquite trees separate the house from the outdoor recreation room; they'll grow to provide shade for the back yard and frame the mountains to the west.

"I wanted to show that you can have a lush (xeriscaped) green look," said landscape architect Steven Rogers, owner of Sonoran Desert Designs, Cave Creek.

Reach the reporter at (602) 444-8236.

### Purified water from the fridge

Sears has introduced Kenmore and Kenmore Elite refrigerators that are equipped with Pur Ultimate water filters that remove chlorine taste and odor, lead, sediment, herbicides, pesticides and other contaminants. The 10-model line is priced from \$1,169.99 to \$1,999.99. **DETAILS:** [www.kenmore.com](http://www.kenmore.com).



The Sunset Idea House features fireplaces in the gathering room and family room (below), as well as wood flooring. Design features and paint give the home's exterior a Southwestern farmhouse look.



Photos by Sam Taylor/The Arizona Republic

### IF YOU GO

#### 'Sunset' 2004 Southwest Idea House

**WHAT:** A show house offering building, design, product and landscaping ideas. Presented by Sunset magazine, in partnership with Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center and Translational Genomics Research Institute.

**WHERE:** Verrado master-planned community in Buckeye. Take Interstate 10 to Verrado Way (Exit 120.) Go north. Follow signs to the Verrado Welcome Center, where free parking and shuttles to the house are available.

**WHEN:** Fridays to Sundays beginning Friday through Nov. 14. Hours are 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Fridays, and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Closed Mondays through Thursdays.

**ADMISSION:** \$10, free for children 5 and younger. \$8 for seniors on Fridays only. **DETAILS:** 1-800-706-7375. [www.sunset.com/verrado](http://www.sunset.com/verrado).