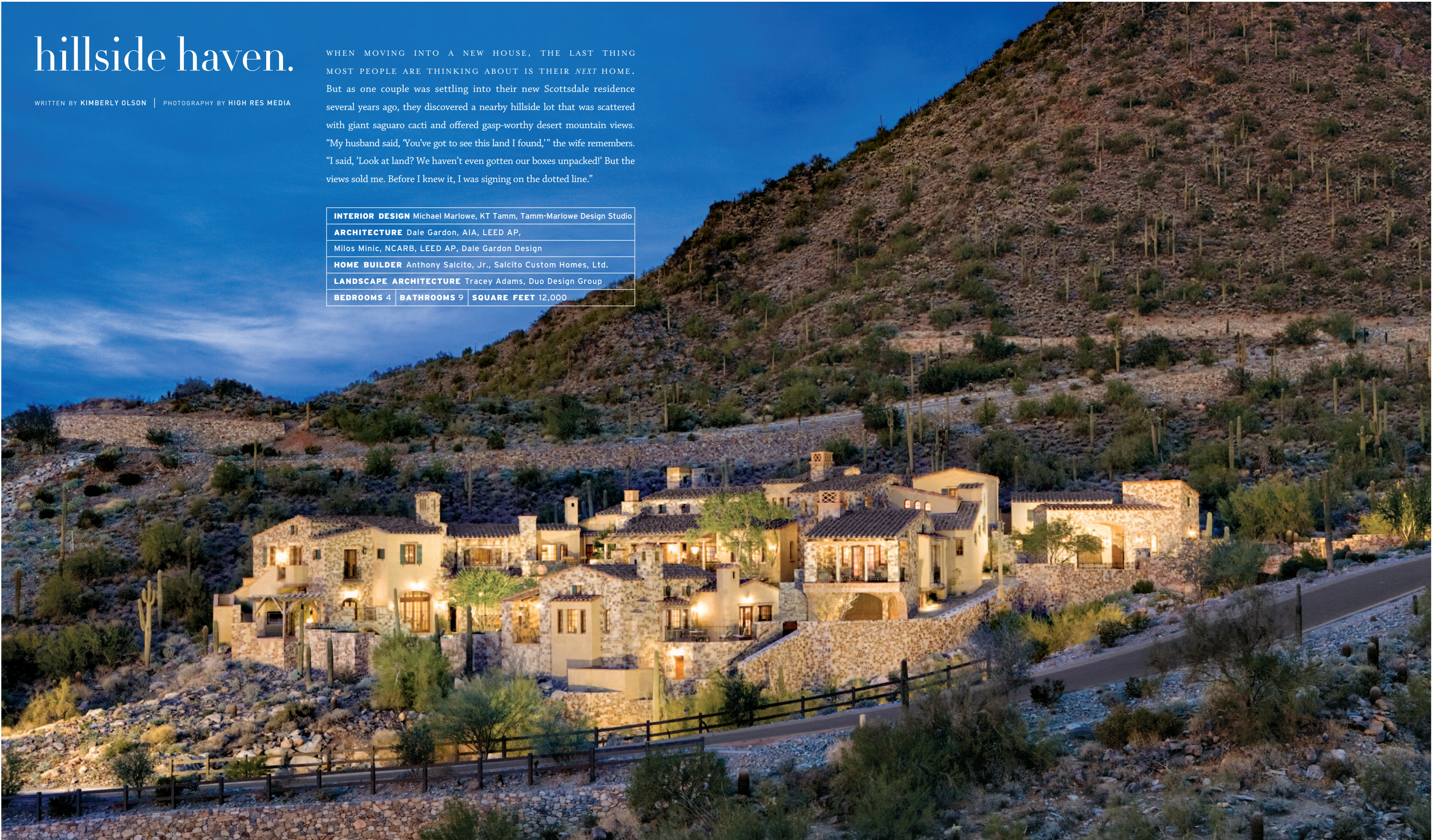


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WRITTEN BY KIMBERLY OLSON | PHOTOGRAPHY BY HIGH RES MEDIA

WHEN MOVING INTO A NEW HOUSE, THE LAST THING MOST PEOPLE ARE THINKING ABOUT IS THEIR *NEXT* HOME. But as one couple was settling into their new Scottsdale residence several years ago, they discovered a nearby hillside lot that was scattered with giant saguaro cacti and offered gasp-worthy desert mountain views. “My husband said, “You’ve got to see this land I found,”” the wife remembers. “I said, ‘Look at land? We haven’t even gotten our boxes unpacked!’ But the views sold me. Before I knew it, I was signing on the dotted line.”

INTERIOR DESIGN Michael Marlowe, KT Tamm, Tamm-Marlowe Design Studio		
ARCHITECTURE Dale Gardon, AIA, LEED AP, Milos Minic, NCARB, LEED AP, Dale Gardon Design		
HOME BUILDER Anthony Salcito, Jr., Salcito Custom Homes, Ltd.		
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE Tracey Adams, Duo Design Group		
BEDROOMS 4	BATHROOMS 9	SQUARE FEET 12,000





**STYLE SELECTION**

Inspired by classic southern grandeur, this lantern's solid brass frame, rich copper bronze finish and beveled glass panels leave a stately, elegant first impression. *Augusta, \$420; hinkleylighting.com*

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They began dreaming of the home they would build in Silverleaf, a private enclave tucked into the canyons of the McDowell Mountains. Her thoughts harked back to time spent in an old farmhouse in the Italian countryside that she loved for its warm, rustic feel. So the couple recruited architect Dale Gardon to design a home that would replicate the look and appear as though it had been built over time. "The house wraps around itself a little bit, so you can get out to certain vantage points and look back at the architecture," Gardon explains.

Though the exterior would be a vast manor broken into pieces that gently sprawl the foothill, the lady of the home pictured a cozy, inviting interior. "We love to entertain, and we wanted people to be able to kick off their shoes and feel at home," she says. "That's how we



**OLD WORLD WELCOME**

A grand stone driveway leads into an entrance reminiscent of an Italian piazza. Stonework by Palo Cristi Stone Masonry Company and heavy wooden garage doors by Alcal Specialty Contracting provide rustic Mediterranean ambiance, as do roof tiles imported from France.





**TABLE SERVICE**

A 17<sup>th</sup>-century Italian console table discovered in Firenze by designer KT Tamm graces the foyer and supports two elegant table lamps from On the Veranda. An antique Oushak rug from Azadi Fine Rugs adds color to the space. A custom fixture from Hinkley's Custom Lighting hangs above.

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live—relaxed and comfortable.” Stepping in to tackle the wife’s décor desires were principle designers Michael Marlowe and KT Tamm, along with associate designer Natalie Schuetz. “It was important that we nail that rustic, authentic Italian feel, so we worked with a local company, Antiquities, to bring in elements like antique stone pavers and old reclaimed beams and trusses,” says Tamm.

Of course, using materials like reclaimed timber presents special challenges all its own. “Some of the pieces were old and twisted,” says



**GUEST ROLE**

Built-in cabinetry from Arizona Custom Cabinets sets off a reclaimed limestone fireplace in the guesthouse. Cozy seating—such as the antique armchair reupholstered in Rose Tarlow Melrose House fabric—surrounds an oak coffee table from Amy Perlin Antiques in New York.





**STICKING POINT**

Framed by the McDowell Mountains, the rustic stone manse, which was inspired by the Italian countryside, is perfectly suited for its rocky desert environs, which are dotted with succulents and one of the homeowners' favorite plants, giant saguaro cacti.





**FARM TO TABLE**

A spacious farmhouse kitchen with soaring ceilings features cabinetry by All Wood Treasures, and beckons casual diners to gather around the generous island topped with soapstone from Stockett Tile & Granite. Wood floors by Richard Marshall Fine Flooring purchased through Premiere Wood Floors run throughout the space.



**HIGH-UP HIDEAWAY**

In the home's charming view tower, loungers can sink into seating by On the Veranda—covered in textiles from Inside/Out Showrooms—and enjoy the vistas. The antique stone-top coffee table, also from On the Veranda, sits atop a custom sisal rug from The Floor Collection.

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Anthony Salcito, Jr., who did the framing for the structure. “They didn’t come straight and planed, like out of a mill. But we had to put them together in a truss, so it required a lot of craftsmanship.”

The living areas—although generously sized, with soaring ceilings—are remarkably intimate. Using exterior materials like limestone, moss rock and chocolate flagstone in the interior softens the volume of the spaces, creating coziness. “We worked very hard to achieve the drifts of light and dark, copying an old-world image that Dale had shown the homeowners,” says Salcito.





**OUTDOOR RETREAT**  
Kingsley-Bate lounges provide a place from which to relax and take in the mountain views from the spa-like pool area. The showstopping fire pit at the edge of the pool by Phoenician Pool Construction is fashioned from stones purchased through Antiquities.



**AL FRESCO EXPERIENCE**  
The dining area in the home's north terrace features an antique marble-topped table with a hand-forged iron base and chairs from On the Veranda. The inviting fireplace brings warmth to chilly evenings, providing a spot for casual meals.

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In seek of furnishings, Tamm, along with the wife, embarked on a trip to Italy, where they found a myriad of antique treasures, such as a console table for the foyer, sconces for the guesthouse living room and a 17<sup>th</sup>-century trestle table from a convent for the husband's office retreat. To keep with the spacious yet intimate feel, the farmhouse kitchen—the lady of the house's favorite room—is ample enough for a group of eight or nine adults to cook and entertain, but is warmed up with aged concrete and soapstone countertops, custom lighting and organic touches such as rustic wooden beams and a wall of stone.





#### DEEP SOAK

Bathers return to an earlier era while lounging in a Sunrise clawfoot tub from Clyde Hardware Co. A 17<sup>th</sup>-century Italian carved chair sits on an antique Oushak rug from Azadi Fine Rugs, while a dresser by All Wood Treasures holds towels and other necessities.

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Antique stone accents, which are carried throughout the home, adorn the charming guest cottage connected to the pool and afford write-home-about views. “We used as many native plants as we could and then, in the private areas inside the courtyard walls, introduced plants that flower at different times of the year to add color and interest,” says landscape architect Tracey Adams.

The house took four years to build, and while there were obstacles along the way—like getting those old wood beams to behave—the homeowners say it’s exactly as they envisioned it. “Those four years were about the journey we had with the team, and we had a lot of fun,” says the wife. “We worked so well together and that’s really what it’s about; the people who worked alongside us to make it happen.” **L**



#### BEDTIME STORY

The vault-ceilinged bedroom, used by the homeowners’ adult daughter when she visits, features a custom canopy bed from Cathouse Beds and linens by Feathers Custom Furniture. Chairs and a custom ottoman by Tamm-Marlow Design Studio mix with antiques like the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Italian desk in the foreground.