

ESSENTIAL Southwest Architecture



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PHOENIX HOME & GARDEN

Old World

ARCHITECTURE WITH THE SPIRIT OF OLD EUROPE HAS FOUND WELCOMING TERRITORY IN THE DESERT, HILLSIDES AND FOOT-HILLS OF THE SOUTHWEST. IN GREATER PHOENIX-AREA COMMUNITIES AND IN THE TUCSON AREA, FOR EXAMPLE, NEW HOMES IN A VARIETY OF EUROPEAN-INSPIRED STYLES ACCOMMODATE THE DESIRES OF HOMEOWNERS WHO LOOK TO THE OLD WORLD FOR A CERTAIN CHARM, COMFORT AND THE CRAFTSMANSHIP ASSOCIATED WITH FORMER TIMES.

Arizona architects and architectural designers, along with builders, interior designers and allied trades, provide all of that and more in timeless-looking residences inspired by homes in Tuscany, France and Spain, in particular, and complete with conveniences and amenities that suit today's lifestyles. Homes may be rustic or refined and often feature stone or a combination of stone and stucco construction; high ceilings may be groin-vaulted or trestle-beamed.

Long a favorite spot for travelers, Tuscany, in central Italy, has wooed both home designers and home buyers with its centuries-old architecture—stuccoed villas in sun-drenched colors, rustic stone-encrusted farmhouses, medieval castles with turrets and picturesque central squares.

The charm of the region has been transported to the Southwest in homes with stone and stucco facades, enclosed courtyards, and staggered, tiled rooflines that evoke images of Tuscan hilltop villages; the Italian houses were added on to over time as new generations needed shelter, and rooflines reflected the changes.



A combination of rectangular and Roman-arched windows, textured sage-green walls, and stairs clad in tile lend Old World flavor to a courtyard off the kitchen of a Spanish Mission-style home designed by architect Dale Gardon and built by Schultz Development Corp. The north Scottsdale home's landscape is by Duo Design Group.



Among Tuscan-style details adapted for Arizona residences are spare lines and massive forms; stone turrets or bell towers at entryways; kitchens that serve multiple functions, for cooking and eating and as main gathering places; simple unadorned stone columns; deep eaves; clerestory windows to bring in natural light; deeply recessed windows for sun control in temperate climates;

and loggias and courtyards, appealing to the popularity of indoor/outdoor living in Tuscany and the Southwest alike.

From a materials standpoint, exterior walls are sometimes comprised completely of stone, or of stone with elements of brick, or stuccoed over. In Tuscany, the stone was dug from the landscape; builders in Arizona often have a ready source of

stone on a home's building site, as well.

Other materials prevalently seen include terra cotta, which is used in Tuscany for roof tiles, flooring and distinctive conical chimneys. (Assorted brick chimneys also dot Tuscan roofs.) And ceilings inside and out may be dressed with dark wood ceiling beams, often interspersed with terra-cotta tiles.

Old World ambience and classic elements of Spanish Mission style are evident in the entry courtyard of Dale Gardon's Scottsdale project with builder John Schultz. These include stone-clad arched loggias, brick surrounds and a stair tower housing an interior staircase.



This view of the home showcases a succession of arched porte-cochères, varied roof elevations, Juliet and larger balconies anchored with ornate iron railings and exterior stone walls—all emblematic of Old World style.



Rough-hewn beams form a pergola over the home's open-air dining patio. Flooring of Spanish Cotto tiles in a basket-weave pattern is accented with Mexican tiles.



OPPOSITE: A similar formality can be seen in this library/dining room conceived by interior designer Nancy Hepburn with architecture by Dale Gardon. Lending a chateau-like feel are high coffered ceilings, cherry millwork, an antique chandelier and a carved limestone fireplace flanked by tall archways lined in matching stone. The home was built by Schultz Development Corp.