

MODERN LUXURY

Scottsdale

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CHEF KEVIN BINKLEY RETURNS TO HIS ROOTS
INSIDE ONE OF THE VALLEY'S MOST LAVISH GUEST HOUSES
TOP 5 RESORT POOLS FOR BEATING THE HEAT



SPA-AMH The homeowners and visitors alike are drawn to the luxe spa room in this North Scottsdale guest house. Lounge chairs are by B&B Italia, from Lumiture.

GUEST SERVICES

A luxe Scottsdale guest house is always fully booked.

By Nora Barba Trulson
Photography by Dino Tonn

There's a reason why friends call Cheryl and Mike Mendez's guest house "the Five Seasons." Architect Dale Gardon opted to ignore the age-old rule of making guests feel comfortable but not *too* comfortable when he designed the luxe, 3,000-square-foot space.

Gardon, principal of Dale Gardon Design in Scottsdale (dalegardondesign.com), made sure that it was more than just a pretty space that stays empty in between visits from family and friends. It also functions as an extension of the Mendezes' main house, offering a gym, spa and space for a pool table.

The couple had been working with Gardon for several years on a concept for a new build when the North Scottsdale home came on the market. It too had been designed by Gardon in the 1990s, in the formal Mediterranean style they liked. "We decided that, rather than waiting two years for a new house to be built, we could remodel the older house and move in more quickly," Cheryl explains.

For Gardon, the remodeling project was CONTINUED...



PRESIDENTIAL SUITE From left: Architect Dale Gardon designed the guest house foyer to echo the grandeur of the main house. Marble flooring is from Cactus Stone & Tile; the great room's custom cabinetry includes storage and a bar. The sofa, footstools and coffee table are Fendi Casa from Luxury Living Group. The pool table is from Mitchell Exclusive Billiard Design, and the area rug is from David E. Adler Inc.

...CONTINUED "another bite at the apple," updating the 9,000-square-foot home and transforming its darker, traditional interior into a lighter, more contemporary setting.

There was one issue, however. "The house only has four bedrooms, and one of our sons is living at home with us," Cheryl says. With one room serving as an office, that left only one room for guests. A guest house was the best solution to accommodate their cadre of visiting friends and family.

Gardon positioned it across the property's formal garden, incorporating what was once a potting pavilion. Nestled into a desert hillside in the back, the new guest house appears to have been designed at the same time as the main house, echoing its Mediterranean-influenced arched doorways and windows, smooth stucco exterior walls and architectural details, such as the two-piece clay tile roof,

stone columns, custom carriage lamps and carved limestone window surrounds. Gardon created a separate auto court for the new guest house and a jacaranda-shaded patio space, offering visitors privacy. One side of the new building includes a spacious gym, while the other side includes a foyer, great room, bedroom, bathroom and indoor spa.

Gardon worked with the couple to create a contemporary Regency-style interior for the guest house that Mike characterizes as "Upper East Side meets Las Vegas." "My inspiration came from hotels in Venice or Milan," Gardon explains, "where you walk into a beautiful old building to find a surprisingly modern interior."

Guests step through a custom steel and glass door into the soaring foyer, with a 22-foot ceiling designed by the architect to echo the

CONTINUED...



LIGHTEN UP The foyer's Maryland chandelier from Barovier&Toso features curved glass arms, drop pendants and fabric shades.

home



BACK-TO-BACK
The spa's Sicis mosaic mural is from Cactus Stone & Tile.



GUEST PRIVILEGES
Clockwise from top left: A Fendi Casa bed and custom night tables anchor the guest-house bedroom; the exterior of the guest house, with its arched details and limestone surrounds, complements the architecture of the original house; a floating mirror framed in stainless steel mesh divides the two-sided bathroom vanity. Wall art is by Matt Devine.



«If we had a full kitchen and daily maid service, I doubt anybody would ever leave.»

—CHERYL MENDEZ, OWNER >>

...CONTINUED grandeur of the main house. Black and white marble flooring, a mirrored wall and a dramatic Barovier&Toso Murano glass chandelier reiterate the elegant theme. In the adjacent great room, Gardon tucked in a kitchenette that includes refrigerator and microwave drawers, and a wine cooler. A countertop extends along one wall to create bar seating and bisects a custom pau ferro wood cabinet, fabricated by Woodesign of Phoenix to hide the big-screen TV. A modern pool table anchors one end of the room, while a seating area—which includes a Fendi sofa and footstools, and a B&B Italia lounge chair—invites lingering.

Low lighting and deep charcoal walls provide a moody backdrop for the bedroom, where a Fendi bed and suspended custom nightstands take center stage. Gardon also designed a custom pau ferro desk, inset with shagreen, for the room. A hallway with black and white, piano key-patterned marble flooring leads to the bathroom and spa, where a floating mirror framed in stainless steel mesh divides the two-sided vanity. A built-in banquette is designed for lounging. Across the way, the in-floor spa has its own TV, while two B&B Italia chaise lounges invite a post-soak nap under the discreet gaze of the bathing nude beauty depicted in the gorgeous mosaic tile.

As soon as it was completed, the Mendezes' guest house was abuzz with activity—and not just with overnight guests. Cheryl finds her way to the gym on a daily basis, while Mike relaxes with soaks in the spa. When friends and family come for dinner, the group often drifts to the guest house to shoot pool, have drinks or watch TV.

Yes, the guests do come, luxuriating in the setting. "If we had a full kitchen and daily maid service, I doubt anybody would ever leave," quips Cheryl. So has Gardon stayed there yet? "No, but I should book a night," he says. "I could use a vacation." ■