

CONTEMPORARY

# STONE & TILE design

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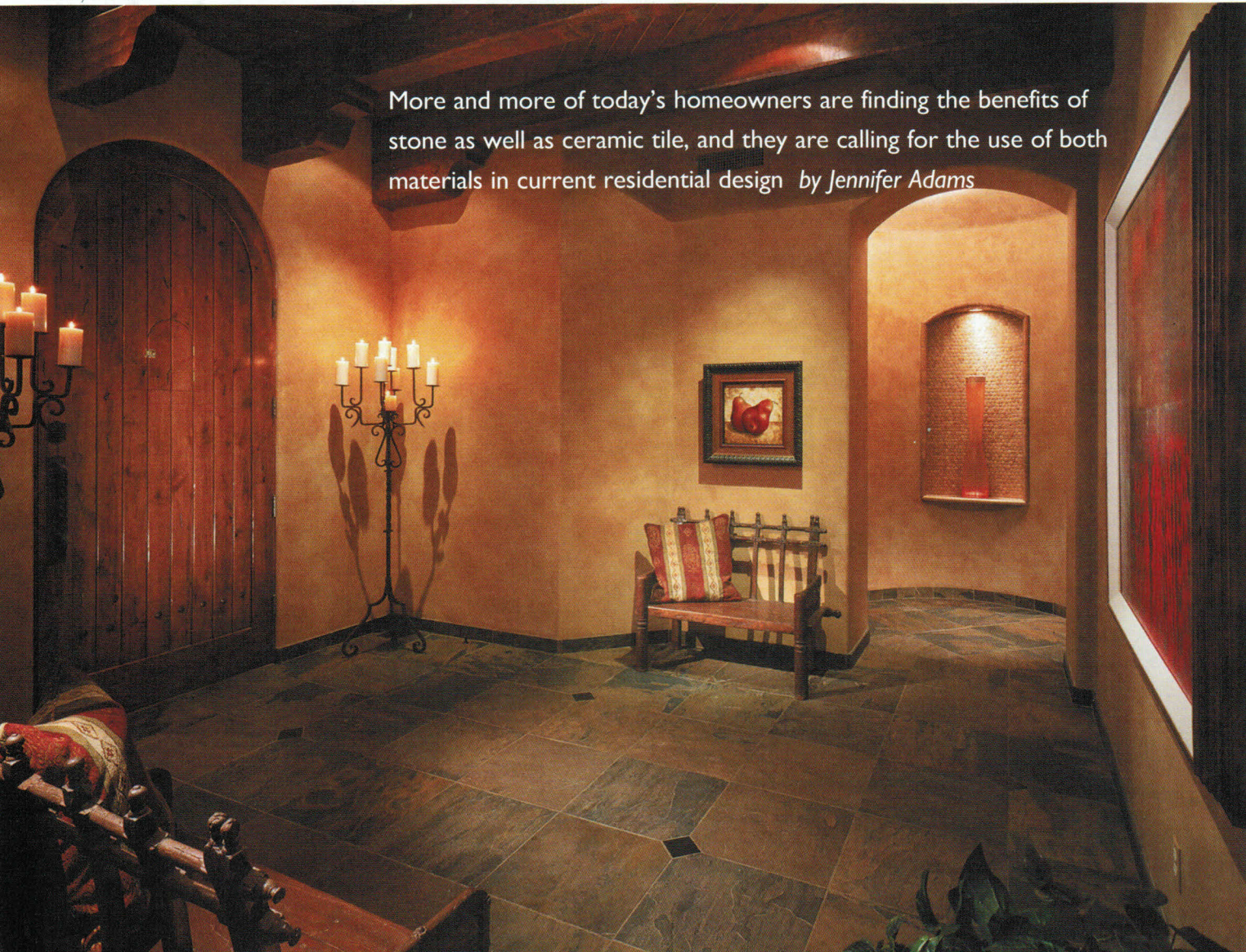


HIGH-END RESIDENTIAL / HOSPITALITY DESIGN / WILLIAMSON POUNDERS / UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

# A COMFORTABLE FUSION OF STONE AND TILE

Photos by Dino Tonn

More and more of today's homeowners are finding the benefits of stone as well as ceramic tile, and they are calling for the use of both materials in current residential design *by Jennifer Adams*



When designing this private residence in Paradise Valley, AZ, designer Debra Himes chose a palette of neutral-colored stones to reflect the surrounding desert. Rustic Gold slate was used in 20- x 20-inch pieces as flooring in many areas throughout the interior of the home.

**Designer:** Debra May Himes, Interior Design & Associates, LLC, Mesa, AZ; **Builder:** John Gill; **Stone Supplier:** Arizona Tile, Tempe, AZ

**WHEN** it comes to high-end residential design, it seems that natural stone and ceramic tile continue to remain favorites among designers and homeowners. And regardless of the desired styles and tastes, these materials are adaptable to any interior or exterior setting.

With the plentiful product collections — featuring endless colors, sizes and textures — designing with stone and ceramic tile today can provide homeowners with options and versatility. It also offers the possibility of mixing and matching materials and finishes.

Creating contrast with textures and finishes is an essential part of designing for Debra May Himes, ASID, IIDA, owner of Debra May Himes, Interior Design & Associates, LLC in Mesa, AZ. The interior designer believes that this technique can generate unique character in a home.

"I prefer to use interesting textures and finishes that bring warmth and interest to an interior," said Himes. "I also design the interiors to reflect and enhance the architecture of the home. Ceiling details are often reflected in floor patterns on the floor. Rustic finishes are contrasted with polished finishes."



*In the dining room, the designer created contrast with a variety of stone and wood. "I put tumbled Noce in between the hand-hewn beam on the ceiling and reflected that pattern on the floor with black granite and slate," she said.*

### **REFLECTING THE ARIZONA DESERT**

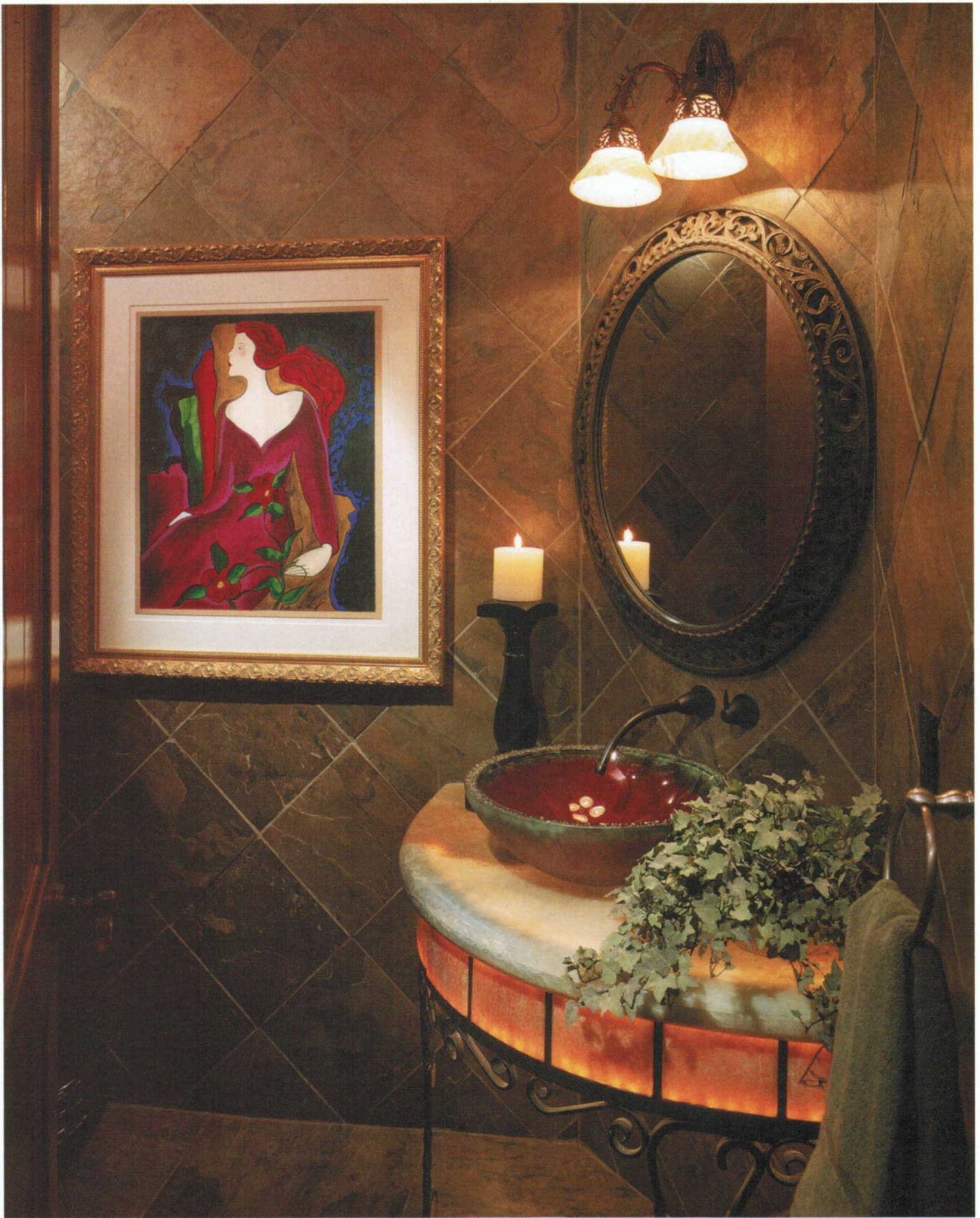
For a private residence in Paradise Valley, AZ, the designer combined a palette of natural stone in different neutral shades to conjure a welcoming environment. "The [homeowners] asked for something different, yet fitting the Arizona landscape," she said. "The finishes they used included hand-hewn [wooden ceiling] beams and a stacked ledgerstone on the exterior of the house. After spending quite a bit of time with them — focusing on their preferences, tastes and the architecture of the home, we decided on Old World Spanish."

To achieve this look, Himes employed Mexican Noce and Giallo Realle tumbled travertine along with Rustic Gold slate throughout the interior of the residence, which includes approximately 5,000 square feet of livable space. "I use quite a bit of natural stone in my designs," said the designer. "Natural stone well reflects the Arizona desert, and helps to meld the architecture with the desert."

When deciding what materials to use in the home, Himes kept in mind that her clients desired something rustic that



*In the kitchen, Rustic Gold slate was combined with Indian Premium Black granite as a border, complementing the mesh-mounted herringbone pattern of tumbled Mexican Noce travertine, which was employed for the stove hood in 1 1/4- x 1 1/2-inch pieces. A combination of 1- x 1-inch Mexican Noce and Giallo Realle tumbled travertine on a mesh-mount was also used for the barrel vault ceiling near the kitchen.*



*The slate was used in 12- x 12-inch pieces for the bathroom walls.*

would go with the theme of the residence. "I considered different stones," she said. "The client had already chosen Golden Wave granite for the kitchen countertops, Butler's Pantry countertops and laundry room countertops. I put slate with it. I've always loved slate, and this particular look went well with the house." The slate was used in 20- x 20-inch tiles for the floor throughout the living areas of the home, and 12- x 12-inch pieces were used for the bathroom walls and shower surrounds.

In the kitchen, Rustic Gold slate was combined with Indian Premium Black granite as a border, complementing the mesh-mounted herringbone pattern of tumbled Mexican Noce travertine, which was employed for the stove hood in 1 1/4- x 1/2-inch pieces. The same combination of slate and granite was also used for the kitchen backsplash. Additionally, the tumbled Mexican Noce travertine was used in the same format for the dining room ceiling as well as the fireplace.

"These materials were selected for their warm earth tone colors, contrasting textures and contrasting sizes," said Himes. "All were chosen to bring interest and contrast to the interior design scheme. The finishes used were both matte and polished, according to the design requirement and placement of the material."

In the dining room, the designer created contrast with a variety of stone and wood. "I put tumbled Noce in between the hand-hewn beams on the ceiling and reflected that pattern on the floor with black granite and slate," she said. "Stone is kind of my trademark look. I use it all over. It creates interesting texture, and I love the look. It's beautiful. We have a really good distributor in town. They carry huge varieties. It's like going into a candy shop for me."

Additional stone in the home includes Imperial Gold travertine slabs, which were used for all bathroom countertops and tub decks; a slab of Indian Premium Black granite used for the hearth of the family room fireplace; 12- x 12-inch floor insets of the same black granite employed in the entry, rotunda and



*Slabs of Imperial Gold travertine form the vanity tops in the bathroom.*



*The same combination of 1- x 1-inch Mexican Noce and Giallo Realle tumbled travertine on a mesh-mount was also used around the master tub. The top of the steps consist of Imperial Gold travertine.*

master bath; and a combination of 1- x 1-inch Mexican Noce and Giallo Realle tumbled travertine on a mesh-mount for the barrel vaulted ceiling near the kitchen and around the master tub.

"The most challenging aspect for me was to give the client that touch of 'wow' and to bring warmth, interest and that cozy environment to a large space," said Himes.