

PHOENIX HOME & GARDEN

The Magazine of Southwest Living

Cool Style in the Desert

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POOL

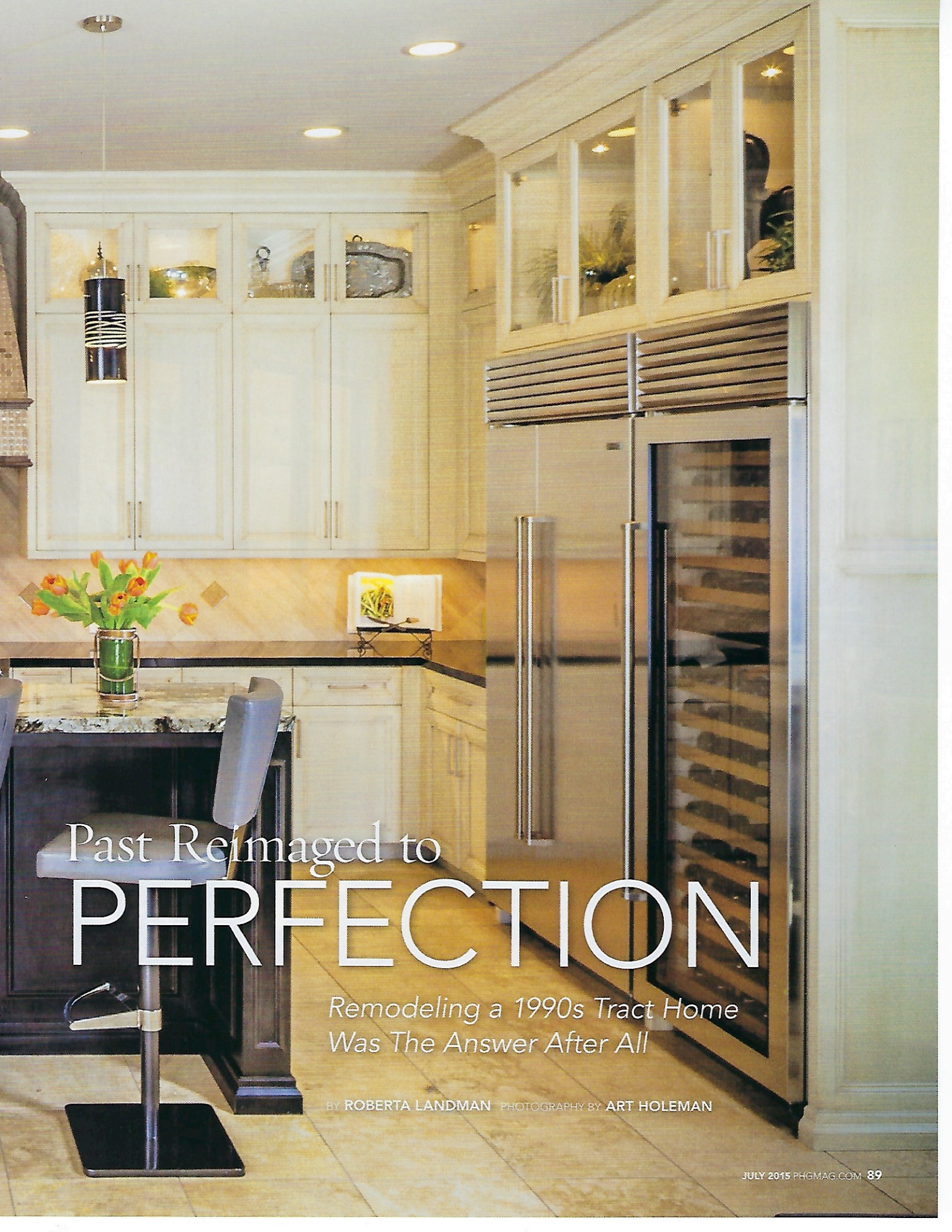
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Renovated and designed by interior designer Debra May Himes, the new kitchen mixes sophisticated materials. Two contrasting but complementary granites cap the island's ebony-hued cabinets and the painted-and-glazed cupboards around the perimeter. Display spaces above the upper cabinets are lit to show off special items, including the homeowner's grandmother's sweetbread pans and her mother's vintage mixer.



Past Reimagined to
PERFECTION

*Remodeling a 1990s Tract Home
Was The Answer After All*

BY ROBERTA LANDMAN PHOTOGRAPHY BY ART HOLEMAN

A NOT-SO-GLAMOROUS BUT PRACTICAL

old maxim states, “A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.” Apply this adage to your search for a finer house, and what you already own could turn out to be a better choice than what you can get elsewhere—with some judicious and creative remodeling, that is. That’s what Tina Machado, a self-described empty nester, recently discovered.

Having grown up in Hawaii, Tina moved to Arizona with her three young children in 2000. In 2002, she purchased a 3,000-square-foot, single-story, Mediterranean-style home in a tidy-looking North Scottsdale community. Her plan was to raise her children there and pursue a change of residence for herself when the kids were old enough to live on their own.

For years, Tina cut photos from magazines that illustrated ideas she might adopt in what she called her “adult house,” one that would suit the soft

contemporary look in decor she desired but did not consider practical for child-rearing. For example, she loved a palette of light grays, taupes and golds; however, sturdy fabrics in reds, browns and tans better suited both her children’s active lifestyle and the Southwest surroundings, she relates. And while the kid-friendly decor was comfortable, eye-appealing and at times elegant, “The Southwest look attracted me, but I soon grew out of it,” she says. Most importantly, the residence did not accommodate smooth indoor/outdoor access, something she had become accustomed to when living in Hawaii.

In 2009, Tina decided that it was time to look for a home that better fit her wish-list. She and her youngest son moved into a condo, and she rented out her house while she looked for a new place. When her search came up empty after four years, she turned her focus back to the family home.

OPPOSITE: Once part of a solid, niche-cluttered wall, the tile-clad fireplace is the focal point of both the living and family rooms. Furnishings chosen for comfort include custom gray leather seating with contrasting piping, a soft geometric-patterned rug and a large cocktail table perfect for games or casual dining.

RIGHT: Homeowner Tina Machado (left) and interior designer Debra May Himes worked in tandem on the remodel.



In describing her decision, she says, “For years, I knew exactly what I wanted the house to look like, what walls I wanted down and what windows I wanted, along with the sounds of waterfalls outside of every window, and the openness of the world outside to come in.” To make her vision a reality, she engaged a design team of interior designer Debra May Himes, who oversaw the project, and remodel contractor RS Anderson and Co.

“In 2013, Tina decided to take the house back, remodel it and make it something she wanted to come home to,” Himes says. Although community restrictions prevented changing the front elevation of the home, the inside of the house was pretty much totally remodeled. Walls were removed, openings changed, and wood floors, some ceiling beams and architectural detailing were added. The

kitchen and baths were all redone, Himes says of the 1997 higher-end tract home.

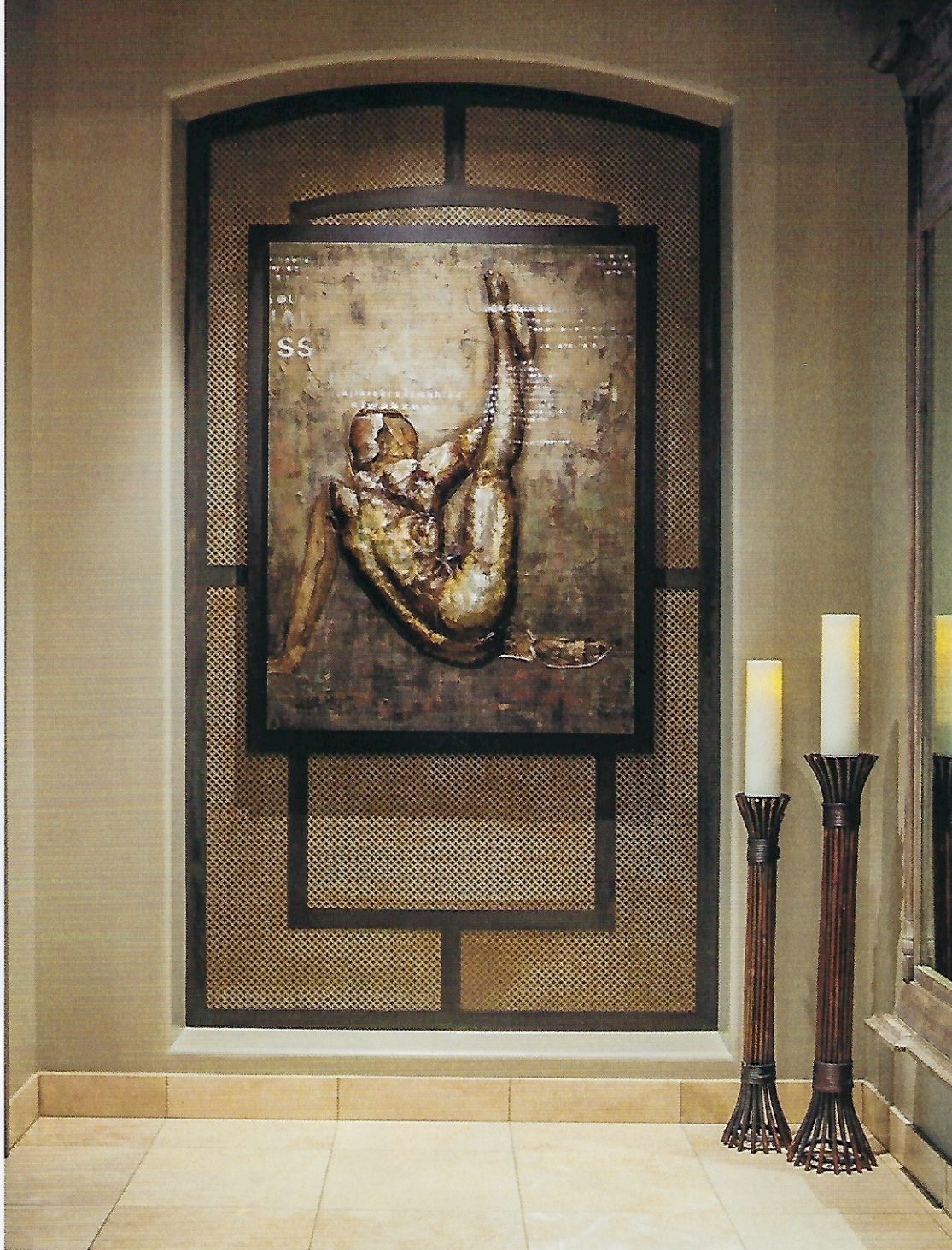
“We had a lot of fun adding unique materials and finishes to the home, while creating interesting focal points,” she adds. For example, a largely enclosed fireplace wall in the family room was partially opened for better access between it and the living room. Now a stand-alone feature that is open to both rooms, the fireplace is clad with new wood-grain porcelain tiles.

Keeping the design scheme comfortable in every room always was key, Himes notes. The project also addresses the indoor/outdoor sensibility and ease of outdoor entertaining so desired by Tina. “Windows in the family room and living room were taken out and replaced with a glass folding-door system that allows her to completely open up those walls to the



The two-decade-old home’s ubiquitous Mediterranean-inspired exterior (above) remains largely unchanged, but beyond the entrance are fabulous new living spaces, such as a fresh-air entertaining and grilling area (right). Himes added folding glass doors between it and the family room, fulfilling Tina’s request to blur the lines between indoors and out. Ceiling-mounted heaters warm the space in cold months. Draperies add a touch of softness and elegance to the inviting setting.





OPPOSITE: A rarely-used walk-up bar in the living area was removed to make way for a baby grand piano. The instrument is “very special to Tina because her children play it,” says Himes. The interior designer completed the area by creating lighted niches in an existing wall and choosing cityscape artwork that speaks to her client. It reminds Tina of sound wave patterns, Himes shares.

LEFT: To emphasize one of Tina’s favorite pieces of art—a figure in metal relief—Himes designed a backdrop for its hallway niche. Made of steel-backed metal mesh, it was crafted by Phoenix artist Brian Szczech.

backyard for entertaining and easy traffic flow,” Himes adds. “Water features also help bring the outside in. Fountains were added to many of the exterior entertaining areas.”

Although Tina craved a home that was true to her adult design aesthetic—spiced with glam and contemporary chic—her children’s needs were a constant tipping point in her decision to keep and renovate the house.

Laughing, she says it’s too difficult to find motel rooms for them at Thanksgiving and Christmas. The three children are all in their 20s now, and, just as Tina anticipated, they and a new member of

the family, a young grandson, frequently visit and enjoy the comforts of the made-over house and its accommodating backyard and pool.

Now, the home’s many sophisticated design elements are juxtaposed with the 3-year-old’s toys, in bold primary colors, which are tucked here and there in the family room. “It’s the new phase in life—me as an empty nester and sharing it with my grandson,” Tina says. “How does he like it? He loves it.”

As for herself, she reflects: “There isn’t a day that I walk in my home and not truly love being there.” She’s happy to be home. ■





Making an ultrafeminine statement in the master bath are a luxurious, deep soaker tub; marble-tiled walls and marble-framed mirrors; creamy-hued custom cabinetry; crystal sconces and candlesticks; and sand-colored travertine flooring. Adding a dressing table at the center of the built-in sink and storage area made the new master bath a favorite of the busy executive.





ABOVE: With its calming colors and view to the outdoors, the renovated master bedroom is a haven for relaxation and slumber. Himes keyed the room's decor to Tina's love for contemporary styling and her affinity for textures and glamour. To set off the chenille headboard and add visual

height to the room, she created a contrasting wall with squares of leather-upholstered plywood. Metallic wallpaper and pendant lighting add more reflective sheen. A silk area rug atop newly added wood flooring "feels good underfoot," says Tina.



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It's a tract home
that looks like a
custom home.

—Debra May Himes, interior designer



RIGHT: Just off the master bedroom is a private outdoor seating area for early morning coffee or sunset conversations. Its resin wicker furniture is durable and appropriate for outdoor use in our hot desert sun, says Himes.