

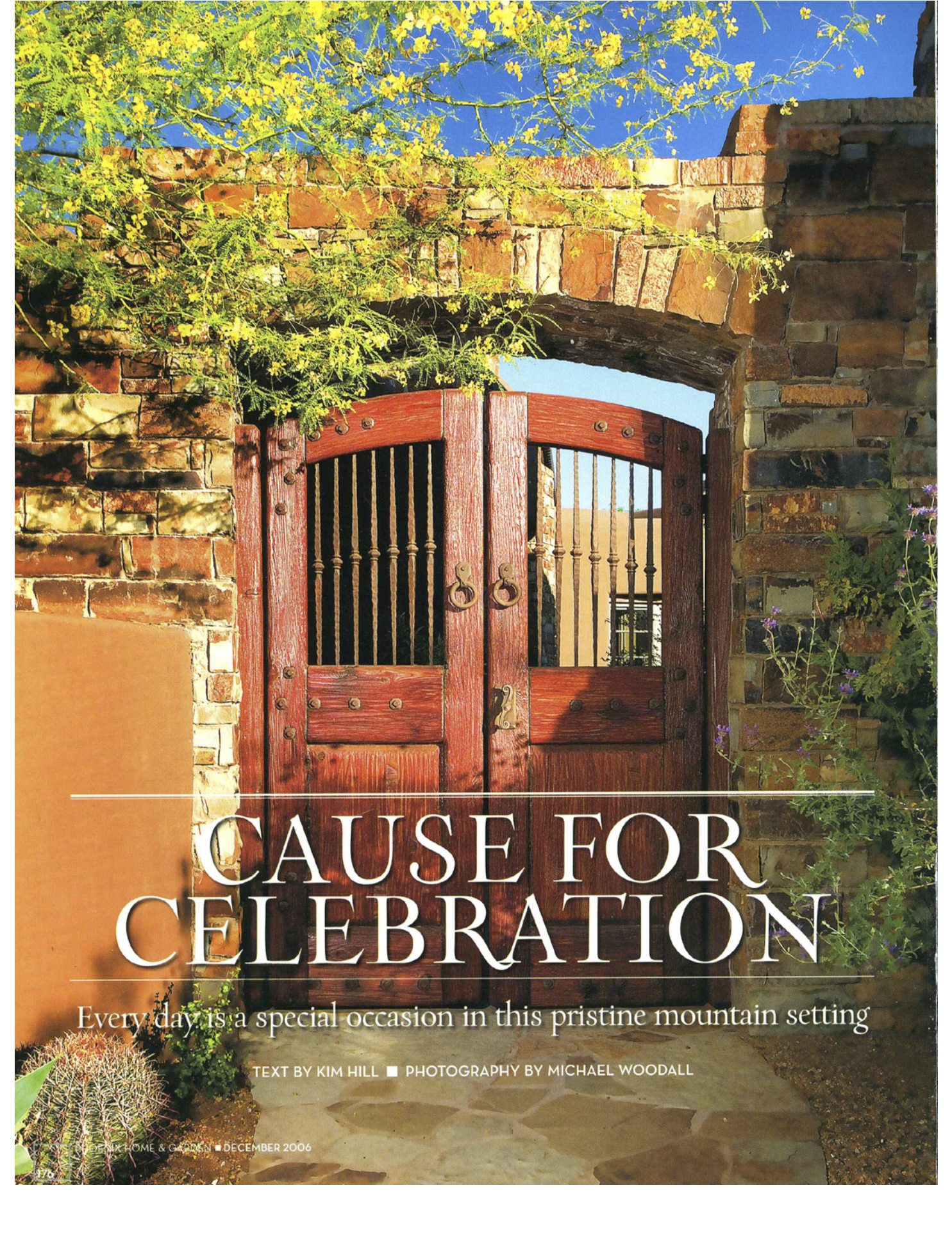
PHOENIX HOME & GARDEN

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Celebrating the Season





CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

Every day is a special occasion in this pristine mountain setting

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This page: Inspired by the ancient symbol of the spiral, landscape architect Greg Trutza created a water feature outside the atrium of a north Scottsdale home. Water from a mosaic fountain bowl designed by sculptor Larry Kornegay pours down a scupper and into a stream. Opposite: A pair of western red cedar gates opens to the entry courtyard.



Holidays are all about enjoying the company of family and friends. And what better place to do so than in your own home?

That's the view of a Canadian couple. The two spend winters at their Arizona residence, delighting in the area's natural beauty with a steady flow of friends from points north and south.

After sampling city life in other areas of Phoenix, the couple was drawn to north Scottsdale's Desert Mountain community to build what they call their dream home. Architect Craig Brown, landscape architect Greg Trutza, and builder Dave Kitt turned their dreams into reality.

Outdoor spaces include a stream with a water feature that is appreciated by adults but also safe for visiting grandchildren. "I didn't want to do the cliché of a babbling brook," says Trutza, a *Phoenix Home & Garden* Master of the Southwest. The circular walls of an indoor atrium inspired the landscape architect to create a shallow stream outdoors. Elevation changes allowed for numerous terraces and small dams as the stream flows across the backyard.

"It took some tweaking to get the right amount of drop at each change in elevation, as the water is moved along by gravity, not by any artificial means," explains Trutza.

The views can be enjoyed unobstructed from the home's atrium. Brown designed nearly seamless glass walls that are anchored in the ground. Trutza's selections of euphorbia, Queen Victoria

agave, golden barrel cactus, and other succulents with interesting silhouettes thrive in the indoor space and reinforce the illusion that interiors merge with the outdoors.

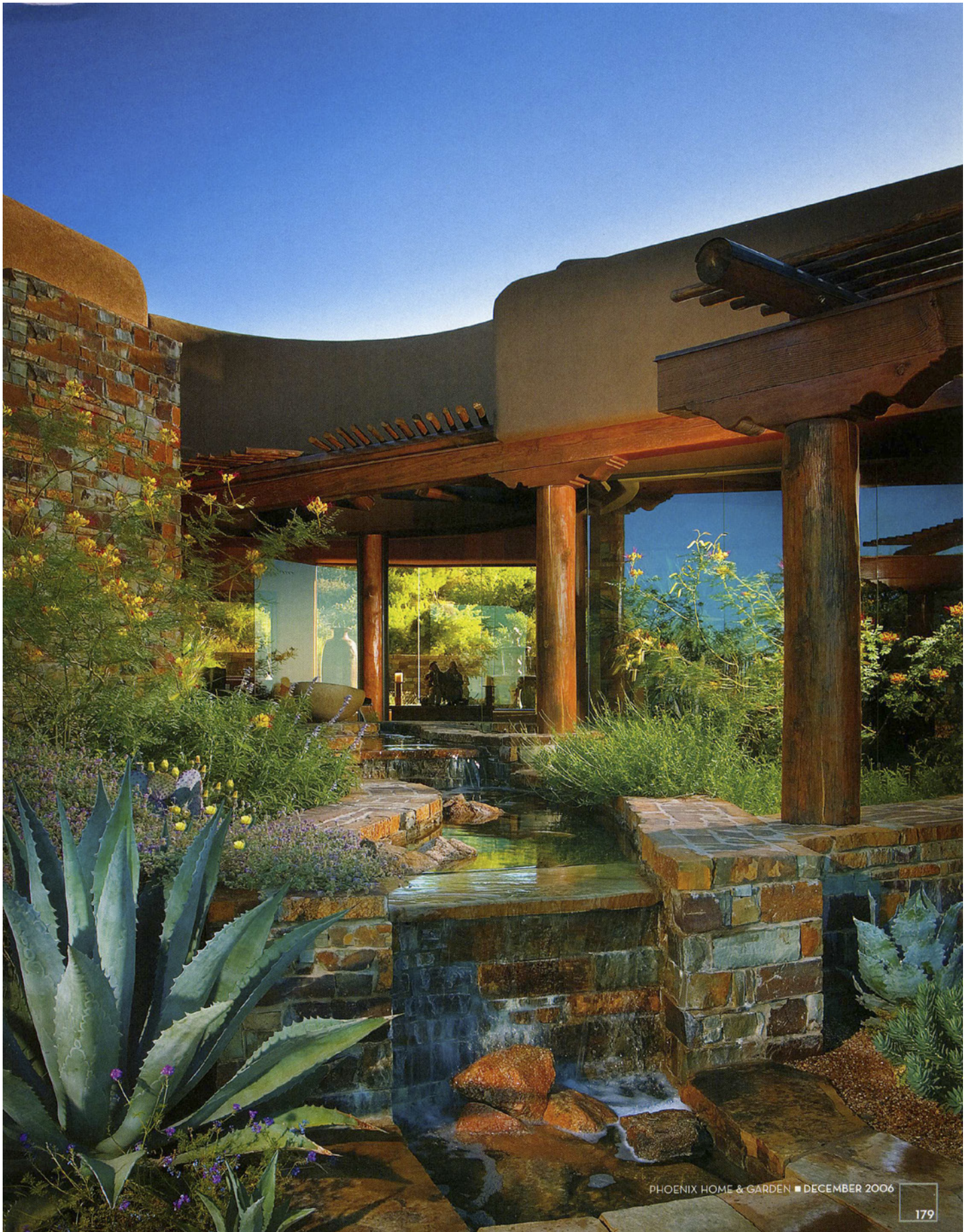
The drama of the stream is juxtaposed with a casual, low-maintenance desert landscape. The homeowners had just one request for the palette of plants. "We told Greg we didn't want anything with white flowers," says the husband. "Nothing that would remind us of snow."

With snow rarely in the forecast, the homeowners utilize an indoor/outdoor room with fine views of the property by day and distant city lights at night. Disappearing pocket doors allow the room to open completely on two sides. "We light the fireplaces, and with the heated floor, it's very comfortable with the doors open in winter," notes the wife. "We're out here every morning."

The wife says that she and her husband celebrate any occasion they can. Both the Canadian and American Thanksgiving holidays are shared with friends or family. On New Year's Eve, two other couples are invited to welcome the coming year with a feast prepared by the husband. The woman of the house points out that "He's a great cook. It's just wonderful to enjoy good food and wine at home." She adds with a laugh, "We don't seem to have a problem getting people to come and visit us."

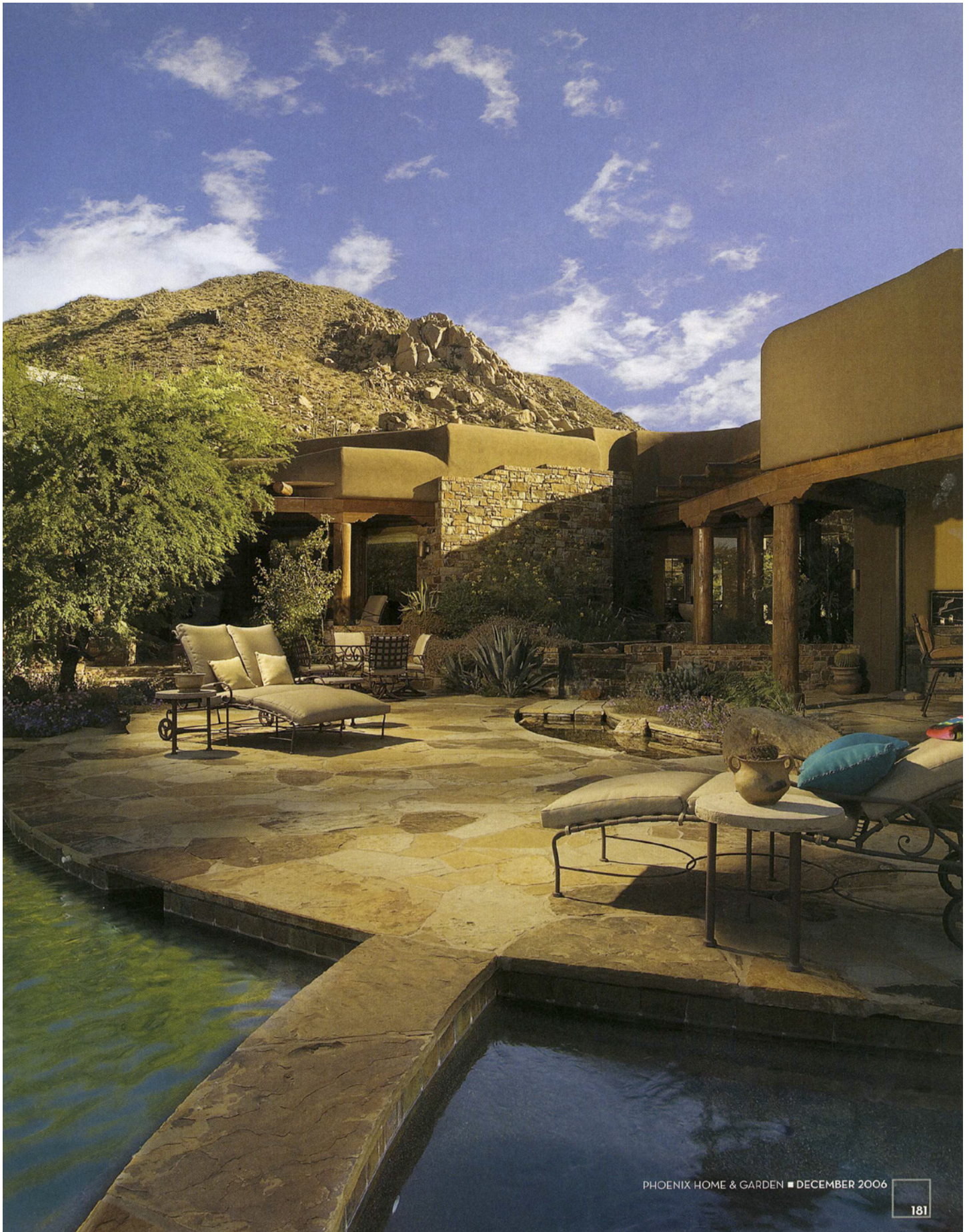
In the midst of a spectacular natural environment, the homeowners and their guests savor occasions both large and small. □

Above: An elaborate watering and drainage system allows desert plantings to flourish in the atrium, which originally was planned as a living room. **Opposite:** A view toward the home reveals elevation changes in the water feature. From here, water flows past an infinity-edge pool and continues as a shallow stream to a lower pond.





This page: Water pours from cantera scuppers into the negative-edge pool. Pink Mexican primrose flowers offer a profusion of color. **Opposite:** The use of stone here and throughout the property provides "a sense of place, blending the home to the site," notes Trutza. A narrow walkway separates the pool from the spa. In the background, water flows under the stone patio and reappears in a pebble-strewn stream.





This page: Walls of Rustic Strip, a dry-stacked natural stone, wrap around the home's exterior. Branches of a foothills palo verde tree bearing bright-yellow flowers form a canopy over the entry courtyard. **Opposite:** A walled-in courtyard off the foyer includes a tiered fountain and dramatic views of nearby mountains.

See Sources.

