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ON THE COVER:  
Interiors: David Michael Miller Assoc.  
Builder: GM Hunt Builders  
Architecture: Bill Tull  
Landscape: Berghoff Design Group  
Photography: Werner Segarra

# A Peaceful OASIS

Written by Michele Perillo  
Photographed by Werner Segarra

Settled in on over 250 acres of lush desert landscape, this expansive family compound was designed with one thing in mind — solitude.

Architect CP Drewett of Drewett Works enlisted the expertise of fellow industry greats — builder **Jeremy Meek** of **Desert Star Construction**; interior designer **David Michael Miller** and landscape architect **Jeff Berghoff**, **Berghoff Design** to make this vision a reality.



Creating a technicolor backdrop, the Arizona sky casts its rays highlighting the unique architecture of this expansive family compound in North Scottsdale. An unassuming black bottom pool adds an element of calm to the private courtyard off of the world class workout facility. **Phoenician Pool Construction**; landscape **Berghoff Design Group**





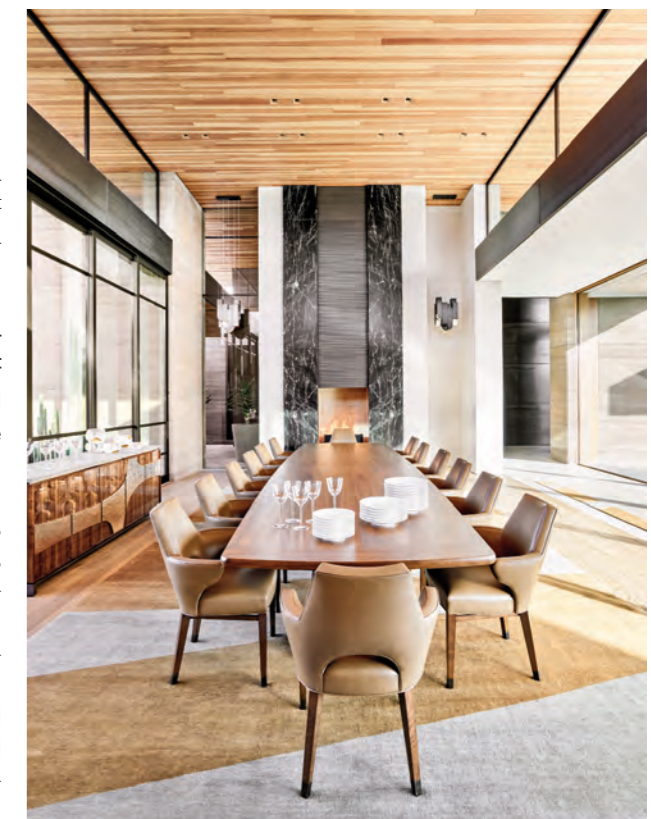
The sunlight streaming throughout the generous corridors of this home created the perfect setting for an artistic approach to the interiors. With the keen eye of art curator **Lisa Sette**, **David Michael Miller** culminated a collection of pieces from various mediums. This cast bronze hand, entitled "Stillness" from artist **David Kimball Anderson**, is positioned on its platform with a justified left stance, indicating a directional element with its corner placement. [lisasettegallery.com](http://lisasettegallery.com)



(Above) The handsome combination of stainless steel and exotic wood veneer in this custom **Bulthaup** kitchen pays homage to the surrounding architecture. **David Miller's** custom pendant lights which are encased in rough-sawn oak beams work well against the overall structural steel framework of the home.

With a stealth-like approach to this project, **CP Drewett's** well thought-out assemblage of key players was critical. The ambitious scope of **STRATA** was daunting from the get-go, and its success required an all-star team — start to finish.

Beyond the stellar primary crew consisting of **Drewett Works**, **Desert Star Construction**, **David Michael Miller & Associates** and **Berghoff Design Group**, the various hand-selected tradesmen from such revered companies as **Sirewall USA**, **Cyber Technology Group**, **Linear Fine Woodworking**, **Premiere Wood Floors**, **Stockett Tile & Granite Co.** and **Phoenician Pool Construction**, alongside respected suppliers such as **Clyde Hardware**, **Bulthaup**, the **Lisa Sette Gallery** and **John Brooks** showroom placed this project in a league of its own. These companies are in fact some of the best-of-the-best in the history of luxury home building in the state of Arizona. There were no rookies on board. And with **Desert Star Construction** strategically placed at the helm by famed-architect **CP Drewett**, a near guarantee of success was assured. In the end, the magnificence of this project and all of its fine detail, precision and technology is clear evidence of what level of greatness can be attained when a fellowship of masters come together and their good minds combine to work in perfect harmony. **STRATA** will live on a testament to this.



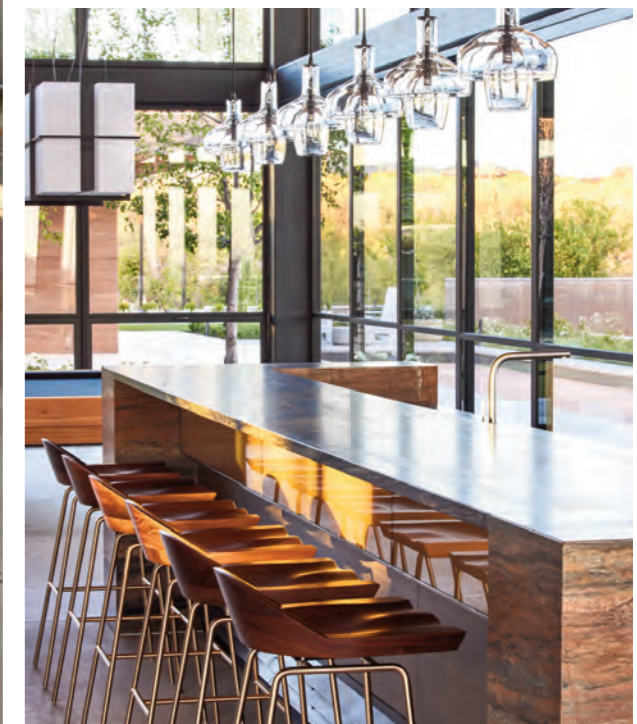
A retractable **Hope's** steel door system allows this great room to seemingly expand into the outer limits creating an orderly flow from the interior to the exterior. Poised center stage, a sunken bar which was designed to accommodate service at table height, conveniently serves both areas without obstructing the views.



Holly Hunt Sevilla lounge chairs in leather create a wonderful conversation area, while her **Mesa** occasional chairs flanking the bar are at once practical, stylish and comfortable. Available through Trade Professionals at **John Brooks**.

Lending itself to an overall feeling of retreat with a zen-like luxury, **Miller's** selection of visual and tactile components for the interior mirrors much of the surrounding landscape with its rich tones and earthen textures. Also reflected are the subtle hues of the structure's natural wood, stone and cool steel.

Despite its grand scale, the home is, above all, comfortable. It is a peaceful sanctuary that is at once stylishly chic and casually elegant. The design is purposeful throughout. Each space serves to accommodate multiple uses without any waste. The overall design is based on reason without sentiment for clutter or excess in design. Everything has its purpose, and in many instances, the purpose is multifaceted and adaptable to many uses. For instance, each living area is situated and furnished in a manner that will accommodate a variety of occasions — from a small, intimate family gathering to a large-scale philanthropic event.





Christian Liaigre Amande floor lamp illuminates a handsome pair of A Rudin custom upholstered chairs. The Berman Rossetti high gloss lacquered cabinet flanks the foot of this Liaigre Aspre bed. Oslo bedside tables from Holly Hunt complete the suite. Available through Trade Professionals at John Brooks. The custom bedding is from Valerianne of Scottsdale.

Upon a canvas of open desert terrain that literally spans as far as the eye can see, STRATA was conceived — and with it far more than an architectural adventure began. Armed with a team of masters who strategically navigated through every obstacle imaginable, from supply chain challenges to labor and trucking issues, this project was still maintained on course. Architect, CP Drewett reminds us that *iron does in fact sharpen iron*. And in this instance, the whetted two-edged sword that was lifted daily at STRATA certainly delivered a mightier blow than any single-sided element or person ever could. He continues to say that “we were all better for each other and for the experience. It made us stronger” — the outcome of which is poignantly seen in a tabletop book Spring 2023 release. Within the pages is a chronicle of the process. Readers will enjoy more than a glimpse of the creation that resulted from the solidity of joined efforts — a photographic journal of a structure that could very well become one of Arizona’s most noted residential feats, both technically and logistically, in design and in construction.

Unornamented and intentionally austere, David Miller chose this custom sculptural soaking tub from Clyde Hardware to add both a functional and artistic element to the primary bath.



(Above) This handsome closet system was custom designed by David Michael Miller and manufactured by Rimadesio, which is represented by M-Arch in Scottsdale. Alison Berger Bell Jar pendant lights are from Holly Hunt and available through Trade Professionals at John Brooks. Artwork is from the Lisa Sette Gallery, Artist: Chema Madoz. Custom-designed walnut display cabinet by Linear Fine Woodworking.



Custom designed cabinetry by **David Michael Miller** was masterfully constructed by **Allan Rosenthal** and his team at **Linear Fine Wood Working**. Paldao walnut veneers create a beautiful pedestal and contrast for the honed Calacatta Sunrise Olympia white marble counters and over-sized slab floors fabricated by **Stockett Tile & Granite Company**. All fixtures are from **Clyde Hardware**. Retractable steel doors are from **Hope's** and available through **Sienna Custom Windows & Door**.

“The idea was to create a home that enriched the land, a home that was actually *at home* on its site.”

Aptly describing the 250+ acre site as a “State park setting”, **CP Drewett** designed this property to be all inclusive, keeping the visual separation of land and structure to a pure minimum. Despite its enormity, this property is serene and exceptionally intimate. A minimalistic approach to the architecture, interiors and the landscape allowed the restful environment to take the lead and meaningfully hold captive the senses. This manner of design, principally based on nature, is often referred to as organic architecture — a modern-day term coined by the late, great American architect **Frank Lloyd Wright**. By integrating natural colors, textures, shapes, form, materials and even proportions into the entire composition, the structure is further grounded and exudes a sense of strength, and with it a lightness of being.



(Shown above) The phrase “if you can dream it, they can build it” seems quite appropriate here. However, this seemingly simplistic bath suite designed by **David Michael Miller** was quite possibly the fléau de son existence when it came to the integration of water, waste, electrical and audio/video. Not only is rammed earth extremely unforgiving in terms of errors, but the opposing wall (shown on opposite page) backs up to nothing more than glass and steel. Builder **Jeremy Meek** of **Desert Star Construction** paid accolades to the entire team on how well they worked together to find solutions. He almost seemed to have taken the formidable task in stride — perhaps that is why they do what they do so well.



**CREDITS:** Builder: Jeremy Meek, Desert Star Construction; Architecture: CP Drewett, Drewett Works; Interior design: David Michael Miller; Landscape: Jeff Berghoff, Berghoff Design Group; Steel Doors: Hope's; Kitchen: Bulthaup Scottsdale; Closets: M-Arch, Rimadesio; Ceilings and all other millwork: Linear Fine Woodworking; Plumbing/hardware: Clyde Hardware; Tile/slab work: Stockett Tile & Granite Co.; Hardwood floors: Premiere Wood Floors; Concrete Floors: Levake Concrete; Pool/water features: Phoenician Pool Construction; Rammed earth: SIREWALL USA; Steel fascia and gates: Accent Design. Audio, Video, Security and Automation: Cyber Technology Group; Project Managers: Josh Gleason, Matt Rulapaugh; Field Superintendents: Jared Bazzell and Matt Mehall.



(Shown above) This game room features nearly every conceivable inside sporting option, right down to the virtual golf course. Custom pool and ping pong tables were designed by David Micheal Miller. Artwork: Mark Klett "Desert Citizens: Saguaro Portraits," set of five. Courtesy of Lisa Sette Gallery.

If the distant mountain range could whisper the tale of a world that stood still, this home would quietly exist therein.

**STRATA**, a word by which this property has come to be known, is derived from the Latin word of the same. Its meaning is a *blanketing of something, layers, lodes, veins, a stratification*. Perhaps initially, the residence was named this due to the home's generous use of **SIREWALL**, a structurally insulated rammed earth product that is applied in layers and is used as a high performance wall system? Or maybe its moniker was born out of the property's unique topography — its underlying foundation and natural landscape? Whatever its origin, it is probably safe to say that the reference of **STRATA** has indeed evolved, and that it has become a far more meaningful appellation in terms of depicting the heart and soul of this structure. **STRATA** is a modern day refuge for both family and friends. The layers of enjoyment and the level of satisfaction — be it from socializing, physical activity, sports, libations and culinary adventures, or simple relaxation and time spent alone or with others, away from the clamor of suburban life — all are served well within the walls of this compound. It has often been said that a home is *one's happiness complete*. Perhaps **STRATA** is just that, no more and certainly no less.

For more information on obtaining a copy of the book **STRATA**, please go to [oropublishers.com/products/strata-a-desert-dwelling](http://oropublishers.com/products/strata-a-desert-dwelling) or email [info@drewettworks.com](mailto:info@drewettworks.com)