Home Decor Melds With Desert

By Mary Brown
Citizen Homes Editor

The C. W. Kaufmans love the out of doors and especially the desert— in fact they'd be quite content to live right under the sky.

Since that's hardly possible for all of the 12 months of the year, they've done the next best thing, built a home which brings the outside into the home as much as possible.

One notable feature to a visitor is the view of the desert visible from every room of the house. Sliding glass doors lead from almost every room into garden or patio areas on every side. Most of the walls are entirely of glass. Because of this, steel supporting beams are used through the house to carry the load ordinarily carried by the walls. These beams are enclosed in architectural structures especially created by Edward Nelson, who designed the home.

The Kaufmans, who built the house in 1958, commuted to Tucson from Chicago and San Francisco until last November when they came here for good. When Do Concini built the home and cactus landscaping around the pool was under the direction of Gerlach's Arizona Cactus.

Constructed of mortar-washed adobe to blend with the desert surroundings, the home is located on Soldier's Trail just off Tanque Verde Road.

The swimming pool, designed by Whitaker Pools especially for its location, complements the house itself which is placed at an angle on the property so as not to disturb desert growth. Native brick is used on the patio floor and a Mexican theme predominates in the pool area which is surrounded by a patio wall. Jugs of Mexican glass as well as Mexican ollas are placed around the top of the patio wall. Straw figures from Mexico are spotted here and there.

A date palm which was on the property is undisturbed and a brick planter has been built around it. A sabinero also grows in the patio with the floor laid carefully around it. Gravelled portion of the patio has palo verde and mesquite trees. Color is everywhere in petunias, calendulas, bottle brush, daisies, geraniums and phlox.

Entrance to the home is flanked with cactus and again adobe planters and big pots are bright with flowers. Redwood furniture with turquoise cushions is used in the front patio.

Mrs. Kaufman chose colors of pink, turquoise and terra cotta as the basis for the color scheme through the home. These colors appear in the Mexican tile floor of the foyer and also in other parts of the home. A screened porch off the front utilizes wrought iron furniture in a charcoal color with cushions of grays, beige and turquoise. A mural of road runners and cacti on one foye wall was done by Kay Mallick of Tucson.

Powder room off the foyer is in pink with a mural of Kachina dolls on the wall. Interesting architectural note of the home is the use of 60-foot-long laminated wood beams in the cathedral ceiling of the living room. These are supported by the enclosed steel vertical beams.

Living room carpeting is in a rose beige and the soaring hood of the fireplace is in acid-etched rolled bronze. Turquoise draperies in a Frank Lloyd Wright design cover windows and glass doors. Handsome carved oak furniture is used and paneling on the wall left of the fireplace is mahogany. A slate-topped coffee table is mounted on a circular base.

Den off the living room, invites one to relax in the comfortable easy chairs and sofas. One wall is lined with shelves for books and another is given over to cabinets for a stereo system and television.

The Kaufmans are particularly interested in Indian art. Two black and white originalities by the Navajo artist Beatitis Yazz are hung on the wall going into the den. Handscreened draperies in the den are done by Berta Wright in a century plant pattern on a soft pink background.

The master bedroom, which opens onto the screened porch, again has Yazz originality on the walls. Carpeting is beige and turquoise tones are apparent in the quilted bedspreads and the turquoise and gold design in the white draperies. Twin beds back up to a joint headboard of oak with shelves for radios, books and telephone. Twin dressing rooms in the master bath are separated by a stall shower. Tones of turquoise and pink appear in the bath where cabinets and dressing tables are built in.

Their daughter, Jan, a student at UofA has a room to delight any coed. Dressers are in a goniometrical print in soft pink and black on a background of turquoise. A peg board for mementos and notes occupies part of one wall and the daughter's workbooks, magazines, and knickknacks. Beach in the ceiling provides a fine place to display ribbons won by Jan at horse shows. The adjoining bath is in pink and looks out onto the swimming pool.

A combination dining and family room is floored in tile and a corner fireplace has a raised hearth of quarry tile with a hood of copper.

A Formica-topped counter bar in turquoise separates this area from the kitchen. Everything in the kitchen is built-in: The stainless steel refrigerator, for example, is in one adobe wall with the ovens on the other two and a table-top stove between. Countertops are in turquoise, double sinks are stainless steel. A huge walk-in pantry has all provisions within easy reach. Service areas are off the kitchen.

One hundred and sixty acres make up the Kaufmans' property. Several hundred feet from the house another adobe building houses Mr. Kaufman's office with a fireplace of fieldstone, two desks, wall shelves and a bath done in pinks and browns.

In another direction from the home one finds a complete guest cottage with twin beds, kitchen and bath. The cottage is now furnished in antiques which Mrs. Kaufman saved from former days when she collected them as a hobby.

The Kaufmans call their home Colancha Ranch which might be a Spanish name but isn't. The Col stands for Colleen, Mrs. Kaufman's name; the Jan is for their daughter and the Charlie for Charles, his name.

Additional Pictures
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