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A patio appointed with X500 seats by Alwy Visschedyk for Summit Furniture and a custom-designed coffee table, fabricated by Gregor Hay Fine Furnishings, opens out to desert views of saguaro cacti and ironwood trees. For consistency, all of the stone for the house came from the same quarry.



John Munford's folding director's chairs pull up to Alwy Visschedyk's X512 dining table, both from Summit Furniture, in the outdoor dining area. The lounge chairs in the seating area beyond, also designed by Visschedyk, enjoy spectacular views of the Sonoran Desert.







Allen describes his aesthetic as simple. "I like it very clean, with a consistent element," he explains. "For example, a wall color, a cabinet style or flooring. The client liked the idea of a thread of consistent finishes, so our intentions were to keep it elegant, clean and lustrous." So the same white oak on the floors is used on the kitchen cabinetry, and the carved limestone, along with hand-troweled plaster, envelops every space, achieving a sense of calm that serves as a foil for the torrid landscape. "You walk from the coarse midday, from the scorching reality of the desert into a really soft oasis," he adds. To offset the monochromatic environment, Allen introduced bold surprises, including a fireplace in the master bedroom with a black granite base that is swathed in copper leather, metallic glass-bead lamp shades in the living room, and

more ornate trims on pillows around the space. The subtle sheen of the material choices also shifts character throughout the day as it picks up and plays with the light.

Unlike many of the other houses the couple have built over the years, they consider this one to be long-term. "Our other homes were just projects, but this one felt like it might be the last one we build," says the wife. "So it became our residence, as opposed to some place we were just going to live in for awhile." It took two years to get everything right, but the patience paid off and is reflected in the tranquility of the spaces. "It's a sanctuary," she concludes. "The desert is armored; almost everything is sharp. The beauty of our house is that the exterior relates to the environment, and the interior is the soft landing in the middle of it." ■

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The design for the back exterior was part of the architect's plan to integrate stacked-stone-and-stucco walls and railing-free water edges with the forms of the house so that the massing appears to grow out of the landscape. Huddleson designed the lap pool, which was installed by Emerald Pools and Sp