





# AMERICAN CLASSIC

AT HOME | TEXT BY LYNETTE CARRINGTON | PHOTOS BY SCOTT SANDLER

Class. Integrity. Refinement. Some things just never go out of style. The home of Carol and Ron Hernandez echoes all three of those qualities with the personal touches that most reflect their lifestyle. The furnishings in the home and the interior design were orchestrated by Julie Coleman, Director of Design Services at La-Z-Boy Furniture Galleries, where Ron is CFO. Coleman, together with the Hernandezes, brought tasteful décor with an all-American style to the hillside home built next to the South Mountain Preserve.

La-Z-Boy has always been a name associated with the best in comfortable chairs and seating. But, as Coleman explained, “We’ve gone from recliners to living rooms to entire homes.”

Many customers may not realize how truly talented and experienced La-Z-Boy designers are. “Our design program has been going for 10 years, and we’ve done over 10,000

house calls,” she said. In the Hernandez home, their impeccable work and extensive experience is evident throughout.

When Carol and Ron’s children were all grown and out of the house, the Hernandezes decided to downsize to a condo, but quickly discovered that it was just too cramped. When they found the perfect lot to build a new home, Coleman was there to assist them from the beginning.

Carol knew that building a new home and then decorating it would be a huge task. “Julie is so great. She helped us from the beginning before we broke ground,” remarked Carol. “La-Z-Boy has incredible brand recognition and this is just an extension of that brand,” she added. She also worked with Coleman to create sophisticated, yet easygoing design. “We expressed the desire that we didn’t want this incredibly *busy* design. We wanted accessories and touches with an easier hand,” said Carol.

The main door imparts a classic mission style but with a more upscale appeal. The entryway rotunda is punctuated by a large domed ceiling with delicate custom painting. On the floor is an incredibly unique addition. Where one might expect an inlaid, tile medallion, the custom painting was created right on top of the raw, travertine tile. The paint seeped in and bonded to the travertine, whereupon it was sealed. The results are a permanent piece of art that greets visitors to the home.

“People frequently think it’s tile,” Carol noted. “(Beyond, they) see the views and the great room and they are really drawn in.” The multi-leveled, travertine flooring is accented with granite inserts, and with a creative twist, rope lighting illuminates the different flooring levels. “It’s practical and it’s beautiful,” added Coleman.

The custom home was constructed by Red Rock Contractors who came through with ►





solid results. “We had some challenges due to the uniqueness of the hillside lot,” said Carol. “Overall, it was a great experience, and our builder delivered everything we wanted.”

More than anything, Carol and Ron wanted comfortable and usable space. “We love to entertain, and we have a lot of family and friends,” said Carol. They have also received a lot of positive feedback on the home’s design and décor. “We want people to come over and just be comfortable. That was the goal,” she noted.

The gorgeous molding accents on the modified, mission-style beamed ceilings were

Coleman’s idea. Initially at a loss as to how to make the ceiling “pop,” Carol said, “Toward the end of construction, Julie came in and said, ‘I found it!’” The deep color of the moldings perfectly accents the wood tables and furnishings completed in shades of cocoa, gold and nutmeg. The dramatic drapes did a fantastic job of highlighting the soaring heights of the ceilings without blocking the surrounding views of the desert and mountain preserve. (Many of La-Z-Boy’s fabrics can be separately ordered for drapes or other uses, making the perfect match for furniture in any room.) ▷









The cantera stone fireplace is constructed in a different directional scale than one would normally expect. The wall behind the fireplace completely blocked the view, so the Hernandezes had the fireplace built out in a horizontal orientation and had an arched opening installed above it so they could enjoy a fire while still enjoy the surrounding desert views. There is no perimeter fence on the property, allowing maximum views of the pristine desert.

The kitchen was customized to the owners' personal tastes, too. "We wanted a kitchen motif, and Carol's favorite vegetable was the artichoke," said Coleman. "Vegetables give great color inspirations," she explained. Coleman also believes that having a color scheme is important for a home. She particularly liked the finials and potpourri jars filled with kitchen paraphernalia. Stocked with beans, pasta, dried fruit or florals, potpourri jars (or apothecary jars, as they are sometimes called) are a great way to bring a decorative accent, introduce additional color to a room or add seasonal décor. ▷













The beveled granite countertops add an elegant touch to the kitchen, and the distinctive, saddle-inspired stools are an unexpected, yet dramatic addition to the center island. A microwave that opens from the top and a hideaway television are two more specialty features in the kitchen.

The master bedroom has a classic appeal that is beautiful without being uptight. The drapes and bed skirt were made from the same material and tie together the color elements of the room, which include golds, shades of coral and nutmeg and warm browns. The two La-Z-Boy chairs at the end of the bed are positioned so that Ron and Carol can enjoy the fireplace. As Carol explained, they spend a lot of time relaxing in their bedroom.

The outdoor environment at the Hernandez home gets just as much use as the inside. The sapphire blue pool features a fountain; water cascades from one bowl into the next where it culminates into fire pits at the lower levels. There is also an al-fresco kitchen area, where much time is spent enjoying the view and watching sports on their outdoor television.

"We're a big sports family. We love baseball, basketball, NASCAR – you name it," explained Carol. "Our relaxing Sunday would be grilling steaks and watching sports in the back yard." When they're not watching sports outside, they occasionally see coyotes, quail and rabbits in the surrounding preserve.

Decorating the home was Coleman's pleasure. Her services and those of other La-Z-Boy interior designers are complimentary for those who make their furniture and décor purchases at the store.

The Hernandezes now have more space to share with family and friends in a beautiful desert setting. With the help of a gifted interior designer, they also have comfortable and classic furnishings and décor. But most importantly, this is the right home for Carol and Ron. "This fits our lifestyle and who we are. We enjoy our space and we use all of it," said Carol. □