

A photograph of a man in a dark suit walking through a large, brightly lit airplane hangar. The hangar's ceiling is dominated by the underside of a large, red aircraft, with various mechanical components and lights visible. The floor is white with yellow safety lines. The overall atmosphere is one of a vast, well-maintained aviation space.

# HOME SWEET hangar

**SPECTACULAR  
AIRPARK  
HOME  
BRINGS  
ONE MAN'S  
DREAMS  
TO LIFE**

BY BRUCE FARR • PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTIAAN BLOK

**T**here probably isn't an address in the universe more apropos of its residents than that of Arnie and Raquel Evdokimo, who happen to live on a street named Kitty Hawk in Chandler. As unlikely as it might seem, the street, named after the legendary birthplace of American aviation, has everything to do with the Evdokimos' lavish new home.

The connection becomes crystal clear when you open the side door to a large garage-like structure adjoining the Evdokimos' brand-new home, and find yourself in a

spotless, 6,000 square-foot airplane hangar, complete with 22-foot ceilings, state-of-the-art climate controls and a gargantuan, 12-ton, remote-controlled door. Parked inside are a couple of Arnie's toys: a sleek, L39ZA Czechoslovakian fighter jet painted fire-engine-red and a twin-engine, cabin-class Cessna Golden Eagle. When he feels like cruising the Valley skies, Arnie simply hits a button to raise the hangar door and taxis a few yards past his neighbors' houses, through a gate and onto the runway of Chandler's Stellar Airpark.



If that isn't mind-boggling enough, imagine such state-of-the-art additions as the ability to program a lit path anywhere through the house instead of stumbling through the dark. Spend just a few minutes as new homeowner Arnie takes you on a whirlwind tour of the massive, 20,000-square-foot home that he and his wife have just designed, built and moved into, and you begin to get an idea that the Evdokimos aren't your normal Chandler homeowners. They probably march—or in their case, fly—to the beat of their own drum.

“WE DESIGNED THIS HOUSE SO THAT WHENEVER WE COME HOME, WE ENJOY BEING HOME. I GUESS THAT’S THE BOTTOM LINE.”

— Arnie Evdokimo



### ‘Techie’ Background

Visitors to the Evdokimos’ imposing new residence in Stellar Airpark Estates soon discover that many of its extraordinary features reflect Arnie’s professional background and expertise. At 41, he’s president of his own company, Data Processing Air Corp., which designs, builds and services large-scale computer data centers and the highly sensitive, climate-controlled environments they reside in. With such a finely tuned technologic sensibility in the family, the Evdokimos designed their home with a variety of “smart” features that have transformed it into a fortress of entertainment, energy efficiency and security.

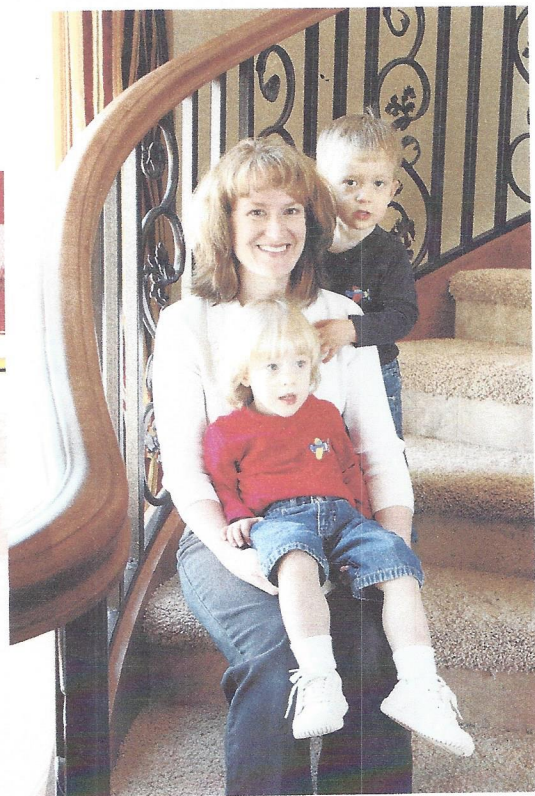
Arnie began his career humbly enough, studying electronics and air-conditioning at Universal Technical Institute in Phoenix. In the late 1980s, though, he turned his ambition and professional focus toward the growing data center construction industry, especially its critical, climate-control niche. Almost needless to say, his business has boomed.

Raquel, 40, is a Connecticut native and a graduate of ASU. She was managing a call center for a local technology company when she met her husband-to-be. “She was a customer,” Arnie laconically explains. The Evdokimos married in 1992 and are now the proud parents of twin 2-year-olds, A.J. and Allison.

### ‘Smart’ Building

Any home building project can be taxing, but at the scale the Evdokimos were planning to build, it required a painstakingly detailed plan. Arnie and Raquel first sat down together and listed everything that they thought they wanted their home to become. The couple then met with draftsman/architect Tim Buerkle, who worked up a nearly perfect representation of the Evdokimos’ rough plan. “He did a phenomenal job of taking everything we showed him in our little sketches, and his first run at (the plan) was 95 percent right—it’s unheard of,” Arnie says.

The couple insisted on practicality and efficiency as a function of design. “The



Raquel Evdokimo with twins Allison and A.J.

'hassle factor' was important to us," Arnie says, regarding one of his and Raquel's fundamental edicts for their house. "If you design things correctly, with good quality and components up front, you don't have to deal with them for years, and that was really our biggest thing."

The Evdokimos chose Rick Chafey, owner of Red Rock Contractors in Mesa, to serve as general contractor for the project. Chafey, a veteran builder with scores of commercial and residential projects to his credit, was still surprised by the scope of the Evdokimos' house plan. "We met about 25 different times and worked out a budget based on the set of plans he had," Chafey recalls. "We've done some pretty massive commercial buildings, so the overall scope of this project wasn't out of our realm, but as far as a residential project goes—yeah, this was different."

### Energy Consciousness

They broke ground in July 2003 for what was to become an intensive, 18-month endeavor. Based on the Evdokimos' desire to make the house as energy-efficient as possible, Chafey recommended and used a number of building materials that are somewhat unique to local home construction. "One of them was E-Crete," he notes, referring to the lightweight exterior concrete block that covers the outside of the house. "It's a specialized product that delivers better thermal performance," he explains. "There're only a few contractors in the Valley who would use it and even fewer who are large enough to use it in a project of this size."

He adds, "Arnie's a little bit over-the-top on energy efficiency, so in addition to using this energy-efficient block we (extended) the walls another four inches on the inside and then insulated that as well. He ends up with an 'R' rating of around R-50, where most homes are insulated to around R-17 or so."

The house's lighting is another source of wonder. It makes use of a Lutron Lighting Control system that enables the Evdokimos to computer-program any light switch or outlet in the house to serve as a master control of sorts. "It gives them the ability to turn on lights or power inside or outside the entire house by pushing one button," Chafey says. "Then when they get ready to go to bed, everything can be turned off from one location, wherever you want that location to be in the house."

Path sequencing is one more lighting feature of note, Chafey says. "The house is

very large, so when you come in the back door at night and need to get to the master bedroom, there are probably 12 or 14 switches that you have to hit to light your way. This system lets you set up a path sequence where you push one light switch at the garage door, and you can light your path all the way to the master suite."

### And There's More

The list of exceptional features seems


endless. There are nine air conditioners that can be programmed for temperature control as well as to turn on or off from different locations. If the Evdokimos leave the house for a vacation and forget to turn down the air-conditioning in the hangar, for example, they can do so regardless where they might be by tapping in an access code on a laptop.


The swimming pool area is similarly constructed for optimum, hassle-free

## BUILDING A HOUSE WITH brains


The Evdokimos made it a priority to add a number of "smart" technological features to their new Chandler residence. These are some of the most notable ones:




 **Lutron Lighting Control System:** Fully remote and programmable, this system offers convenient, intelligent, and sophisticated control of all interior and exterior lighting and water features.


 **Programmable Air Conditioning System:** Enables centralized temperature control of nine AC units, as well as remote monitoring and programming via computer—even from another state.


 **Remote Control Recreation Area:** Numerous pool, spa and misting system operation, maintenance and fiber-optic lighting features are controllable from two locations inside house.

 **Security Video Monitoring System:** Strategically placed video cameras allow for interior and exterior closed-circuit

security monitoring with sequential images projected "picture-within-a-picture" onto TV screens.

 **Phone Intercom System:** Phones are integrated with each other and can be used like an intercom for room-to-room audio communication.

 **Home Theater System:** Fully programmable remote control in-home theater allows for one-button access and management of lighting, sound and video control.

 **Backup Electrical Generator:** Programmed to function as necessary within 15 seconds after loss of regular power.



recreation. The impressive black Pebble Sheen pool is the centerpiece for a host of maintenance and entertainment features that include seven pumps and two filters, a 28-jet spa, a negative edge, three waterfalls that cascade from a simulated rock water feature, a wireless remote-controlled rock slide and an array of atmospheric lights that, at night, transform the pool area into a dreamscape. "All of it can be controlled from outside the house in two locations," Chafey notes. The patio area also boasts a hidden misting system that's integrated directly into the stucco. It, too, can be turned on and off remotely.

One of the home's most exceptional features is a fully equipped theater screening room, and it's definitely made for movie lovers. Located on the first level, it offers luxury seating for seven on padded, electronically controlled recliners ("You can 'power-recline,'" notes Arnie). The theater sound system alone is a marvel, Chafey says. "There are seven sub-woofers, and 17 speakers in the room. The sound and all the lighting are controlled from a single button on the remote control."

## sky pilot

Arnie Evdokimo earned his pilot's license in 1990, but with characteristic intensity, he's taken his interest in aviation to a whole new level. The fighter jet he regularly pilots can easily reach speeds close to Mach One—which, for the uninitiated, means the speed of sound. "My brother is a military pilot and my father wanted to be a pilot. I guess it's just something that I always wanted to do myself," Arnie says, of his avocation. He acknowledges that flying a fighter jet raises the bar a bit, however. "It's true that it involves quite a bit more training and preparation," he admits. "Before every flight I study for an hour or so, to make sure that I'm up-to-date on the latest procedures."

Of his slower, tamer, passenger plane, Arnie says, "It's a great aircraft to haul the family around," but the jet is an altogether different story. "That aircraft is designed to be a ground attack fighter trainer," Arnie notes matter-of-factly, as if there might be one in every homeowner's garage. "You can put bombs on it, rockets, missiles—of course not live—they're all inert," he says reassuringly.

He often flies the jet to support local charities. "I've done numerous flights for different organizations around town. What they typically do is hold an auction and whoever bids highest I take up for an hour flight. They put on a flight suit and get trained in what to expect; I let them have a little 'stick time'... It's a whole experience that no one I take up ever forgets."

### Design Sense

With such an emphasis on technology and efficiency, one might suspect that the Evdokimos were distracted from some of the aesthetics and designer details. Not to worry. As Arnie explains, when it came to anything remotely within the realm of design, Raquel took over—and with purpose. Working with veteran, Chandler-based interior designer Debra May Himes, Raquel selected and supervised the installation of everything from the solid travertine stone tiles, granite countertops and designer window coverings, to the Sub-Zero and Wolf kitchen appliances, custom furnishings, carpeting, paint selection, plumbing fixtures and artworks—even exterior balustrades. Considering that the house has 29 rooms, including six bedrooms and nine baths, it was no small undertaking. But, as Himes notes, "It was a terrific team—the builder (Rick Chaney) was great to work with, as were Raquel and Arnie—and that's what makes a great project."

The house is built for entertaining:

**“ARNIE’S A  
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—Builder Rick Chafey

Along with the spacious outdoor pool and recreation area, a handful of fully equipped wet bars—again with Wolf and Sub-Zero appliances—are scattered throughout the property, inside and out. "The house is laid out for living," Arnie says. "We have a lot of friends and family who come over to visit, and golf buddies that come in and spend a few days, so we tried to build an environment that can accommodate everybody."

Having just moved in recently, the Evdokimos are looking forward to many happy years in their 'stellar' new residence. Asked if he thinks that the home is a true reflection of his and Raquel's personalities, Arnie

nods agreeably. "For me, I guess it shows that I'm a real organization-minded person," he says. "Everything has to be a certain way... You know, do it right or don't do it at all. I don't like looking back and seeing mistakes, or things that tell me I should have thought something through a bit further. We designed this house so that whenever we come home, we enjoy being home—I guess that's the bottom line."



Raquel and Arnie Evdokimo at home with their L39ZA Czechoslovakian fighter jet.