



Elements of Design

The beautiful 6,000-square-foot showroom brimming with original artwork, furniture, fabrics, architectural finishes and eclectic accessories tells the story — Elements of Design is a fantastic and complete resource for all of your original design needs for every room of your home and outdoor space.

Owner and founder JoAnn Johnston has assembled a talented design team who share her vision, dedication to excellence and commitment to the highest quality. You can count on the team's creative conceptualization, professional development, accurate implementation and careful supervision of all phases of a project — from space planning to blueprints and completed rooms. Whether you're looking for the perfect accessory or a full-scale interior design, the team is available to assist you and answer all of your questions.

"If you develop a good base, accessories will enhance that foundation, providing the final indelible personal touches that are uniquely the client's own," JoAnn says. Developing the customer's vision into a unique lifestyle design is their specialty and one of the reasons why direct referrals account for so large a portion of Elements of Design's clientele.

Come in to Elements of Design today, whether you want to increase the value of your property from the ground up, or you're in the market for that special piece of furniture. At Elements of Design, you, the customer, come first.

16049 N. Greenway-Hayden Loop, Ste. 1, Scottsdale; (480) 443-9646;
www.elements-of-design.com. Open weekdays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



This page: A gaily trimmed tree adds a festive touch to the living room. The cantera fireplace is accented with a woven stainless steel band that complements a framed mirror hanging above. **Opposite:** A sitting area in the master suite provides a restful retreat for Mark and Tanya Grace. The ballplayer says he spotted his bride-to-be in the stands while warming up for a game in Atlanta, and finally met her on a Mesa golf course two years later.

T

wo months after putting the finishing touches on an elegant four-story home in Chicago, Mark Grace learned that he would be

trading his Cubs uniform for a Diamondbacks jersey. Not exactly the news the first baseman wanted to hear, but such is the life of a professional ballplayer.

It didn't take long for any tinge of bitterness to fade as Grace was warmly welcomed by adoring Diamondbacks fans. The same year his new team won the World Series title, Grace and his bride-to-be, Tanya, settled into a sprawling Paradise Valley house. The pair liked its floor plan, and they loved the tropical feel of the home's back yard. With a spirit that was receptive to new ideas, Tanya set out to endow the residence with sophisticated coziness.

Her first project was to accessorize the mantel of the family room fireplace. She began with a decorative iron box. She carried the piece with her as she searched for complementary accessories. One of her stops was Elements of Design, and there she met designer Valerie Marcus.

"She came in with this funky box that I loved, and I began to pull a few things that would go with it," says Marcus. "We talked and talked, and loaded her car with accessories. She called me the next day and said, 'You have to come to my house.'"

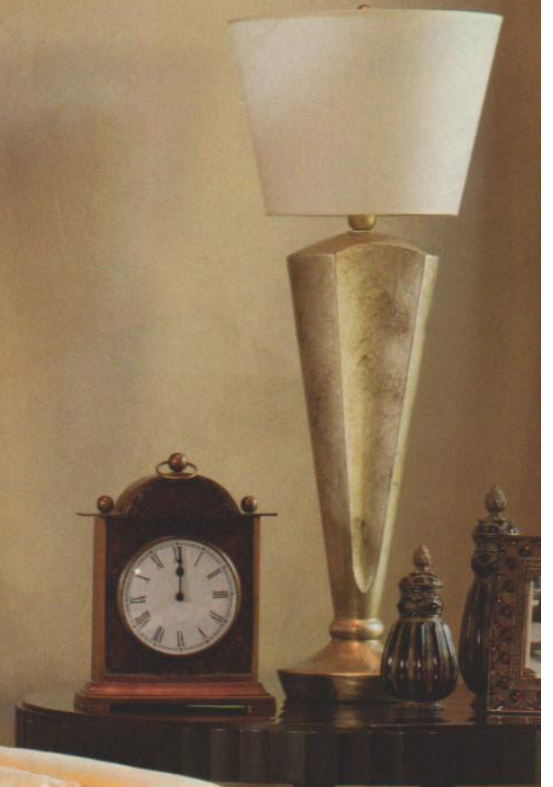
"The home was very Southwest, with Mexican tile, and the style didn't fit with their existing furnishings," Marcus recalls. "My goal was to accommodate what they had—not systematically change things—and to warm up the decor with color and texture."

Travertine floors now lend a contemporary Mediterranean feel throughout the home. Stark white walls have been enlivened with an iridescent pearl finish in shades of blue. Touches of red in pillows and artwork brighten the living room long after the festive Christmas tree and garlands are packed away.

A gallery hall leads to the master bedroom, which is dressed in a palette of midnight blue and cream. Blue silk fabric with embroidered leaves provides a dreamy backdrop for the four-poster. Luxurious draperies from the couple's Chicago home did not fit the scale of the room, but Marcus salvaged the fabric, adding length with a custom cornice embellished with embroidered silk and beads. A two-way fireplace separates the sleeping area from a charming sitting area, which Tanya says is the perfect spot for sneaking a quiet moment.

In the children's rooms, fun is the name of the game. Four-year-old son Jackson's room resembles an old fire station. To conserve space, a fire engine painted on the wall serves as a headboard. A fire hydrant and Dalmatian are painted on an opposite wall, along with a fire hose that winds and curves





This page: Cheery red accessories add jolts of color to the living room. The acrylic painting is one of a series of four, connected with stainless steel bands. **Opposite:** Comfort is king in the master bedroom, where an upholstered wall provides a shimmery backdrop for furnishings purchased in Chicago. The painting by Laetitia Bonnici was commissioned by the Graces.



A closet near the family room was transformed into a wine bar. The trompe l'oeil mural was inspired by a photograph designer Valerie Marcus found in a wine book from the Bordeaux region of France. Architectural elements were added to disguise an air vent.



Walls with an iridescent finish, upholstery with a sheen, and glass pendant lamps at staggered heights add sparkle to the dining room. At the head of the table, an armchair lends height to the room. The wool and silk checkerboard rug balances a silver-leaf pattern on the ceiling.



along the wall. A window seat has a fire truck-print cushion, and color-blocked shutters are topped with a cornice featuring a real Radio Flyer fire engine.

Sports is the theme in year-old Preston's room. Marcus fashioned a pair of Grace's bats into curtain rods, and baseballs hang from a navy blue cornice.

Even the boys' playroom is stamped with personality. It features a map of the world painted on the ceiling and walls, interspersed with murals of jungle animals. Tanya saw the idea in a magazine, and her sister, Laurie Allen, brought the concept to life.

The Graces make the most of outdoor living with a backyard pool, spa, and foam-covered sports court. A great place to entertain, the area is the setting for barbecues, games of basketball, and roughhousing with dad, as well as lazy afternoons in a hammock.

Visitors who are lucky enough to snag an invitation enjoy prime accommodations in a comfortable guest casita located next to a decked-out game room. Reminders of Mark's career are sprinkled throughout, from All-Star jerseys, milestone baseballs and four Gold Glove awards, to bobble heads and an oil painting of the Diamondbacks' World Series celebration. A billiards table sports balls with Diamondbacks and Cubs logos.

While proud of his accomplishments, Mark is equally content with his role as a father. "If I had known kids were this much fun, I would have started a lot earlier," he states.

Christmas no doubt will find the family toasting another sun-drenched day in Arizona as they welcome parents and grandparents for a holiday celebration. "My family will be here, and Mark and my dad will probably deep-fry a turkey in the back yard while they watch football," Tanya says.

"This home is all Tanya and Valerie," Mark adds, quipping that his wife has a black belt in shopping. "It's 180 degrees from when we bought it—it's not even the same house. What Tanya and Valerie have done is remarkable. It's a nice place to lay your head at night." 🌿

See Resource Guide.

Top: Eager to follow in his big brother's footsteps, Preston Grace watches as Jackson springs to action in his bedroom. **Left:** Custom upholstery adds glamour to a fanciful chair in an alcove of the master suite. Acrylic paintings and a custom three-piece console in a gallery hall are reflected in the carved wood and silver-leaf mirror.

Opposite: A wall in the guest casita is enlivened with a coat of purple. Other walls are painted chartreuse for contrast. The painting is by Laetitia Bonnici.



resource guide

The Resource Guide is compiled to provide readers with contact information for some of the professionals, products, manufacturers and retailers featured. Information is correct and current to the best of our knowledge. However, not everything in the residences shown is available for sale, including items no longer produced, antiques and one-of-a-kind pieces. For information on items or services not listed, please contact the professionals involved.

WHAT'S IN STORE/Page 46

Fireplace Furnishings, Phoenix, (602) 788-9383. • Santa Fe Saavy, Scottsdale, (480) 991-6719. • Valerie's Furniture & Accents, Cave Creek, (480) 483-3327.

TRICKS OF THE TRADE/Page 48

Paul L. Buys & Associates, Scottsdale, (480) 609-8587. • **Silver cloth:** available at Jo Ann Fabrics and Crafts, Valleywide.

JOHN WILBORN/Page 66

John Wilborn, Glendale, rooterjohnw@msn.com.

KAREN AND MARK KLAY/Page 72

Tucson, (520) 219-5771; www.klayfineart.com.

GIFTS FOR GARDENERS/Page 93

Berridge Nurseries, Phoenix, (602) 952-8080. • Camille's Collection, Scottsdale, (480) 607-3032; camillescollection.com. • Crate and Barrel, Scottsdale, (480) 998-9009; (480) 945-1500; crateandbarrel.com. • Garden Territory, Phoenix, (602) 268-1962. • Harvey Eugene Antiques, Prescott, (928) 771-1522. • Relics Architectural Home & Garden, Phoenix, (602) 265-7354; relicsaz.com. • Secret Garden, Phoenix, (602) 274-2627. • Smith & Hawken, Scottsdale, (480) 627-9911; smithandhawken.com. • Southwest Gardener, Phoenix, (602) 279-9510; swgardener.com. • Tera's Garden, Phoenix, (602) 253-4744; terasgarden.net. • Vintage Villas, Scottsdale, (480) 922-3892. • Wild Bird Centers, Scottsdale, (480) 922-4910.

PRETTY PAIRINGS/Page 116

Plant arrangements: Available through Cactus Flower Florists, Valleywide, (480) 483-9200; (800) 922-2887; or cactusflower.com.

AMAZING GRACE/Page 122

Interior design: Valerie Marcus, Elements of Design, Scottsdale, (602) 750-8528. • **Faux finishes:** John Matte, Wolfe Interiors, Scottsdale, (480) 922-3566. • **Fresh flowers:** Christine Siegel, The Flower Studio, Phoenix, (602) 279-3404. • **Living room—Brushed metallic mirror:** Ladlow's Fine Furniture, Scottsdale, (480) 609-5000. • **Christmas tree and ornaments:** Paddock Pools & Spas, Scottsdale, (480) 947-7261. • **Stainless steel fireplace mantel:** designed by Marcus; manufactured by Magnum Engineering Architectural Inc., Phoenix, (602) 272-3600. • **Maple end table and wooden candelabra:** Elements of Design, Scottsdale, (480) 443-9646. • **Painting:** Phoenix Art Group Inc., Phoenix, (602) 241-1060. • **Draperies:** Jordan Deland, Window Dresser, Scottsdale, (480) 315-1500. • **Master bedroom suite—Embroidered wall upholstery:** Barbara Morris, Fab Wall, Phoenix, (602) 992-9034. • **Mirror, floor lamp and chair in alcove; demilune nightstand; fabric for sofa and ottoman; trio of wire sculptures from India; and painting by Laetitia Bonnici:** Elements of Design. • **Circular painting in alcove:** Phoenix Art Group Inc. • **Wine bar—Mural:** Karen Wall, The Wall Co., Scottsdale, (480) 361-9797, (480) 767-8337. • **Lamp and architectural elements:** Elements of Design. • **Dining room—Painting and "Vogue" glass vase:** Phoenix Art Group Inc. • **Pendant lighting:** Valley Light Gallery, Scottsdale, (480) 948-5030. • **Rug, ceramic vessel in niche, sconces, host armchair and fabric for dining chairs:** Elements of Design. • **Jackson's bedroom—Fire engine mural:** Karen Wall. • **Bedding:** available through the designer. • **Gallery hall—Custom three-piece console:** Paul Reaser, Phoenix, (623) 465-2696. • **Paintings:** Phoenix Art Group Inc. • **Guest casita—**

Painting by Laetitia Bonnici and lamp: available through the designer.

MAKING MERRY/Page 130

Interior design and general contractor: Custom Homes by Cara Clancy, Phoenix and Coronado, Calif., (602) 697-0348. • **Architectural drawings:** J.O. Huffman, Phoenix, (623) 581-9861. • **Built-ins:** Goodall Custom Wood Creations, Phoenix, (602) 689-0507. • **Oak plank flooring:** Steve Studer Floors, Phoenix, (602) 430-8248. • **Floral design:** Mark Karp, Angelic Grove, Scottsdale, (480) 443-2525. • **Living room—Rug:** David E. Adler Antiques & Oriental Rugs, Scottsdale, (480) 941-2195. • **Chocolate Brown wall paint:** Benjamin Moore Paints, Valleywide. • **Kitchen—Marble countertops:** Phoenician Marble & Granite, Tempe, (480) 894-6886. • **Wolf range:** Arizona Wholesale Supply, Peoria, (623) 583-9553. • **Chandelier:** John Brooks Inc., Scottsdale, (480) 675-8828. • **Benches:** Euro Pine Imports, Phoenix, (602) 263-0198. • **Cabinetry:** Clive Christian, Scottsdale, (480) 421-9898. • **Windows:** Weather Shield Window Showroom, Scottsdale, (480) 443-3151; molding from Outwater Plastic Industries, Phoenix, (602) 447-0936. • **Charcoal Black wall paint:** Dunn-Edwards Paints, Valleywide. • **Wallpaper:** Designer Wallcovering, Scottsdale, (480) 874-0501. • **Expect a Miracle sign:** Sweet Liberty, Scottsdale, (480) 874-0504. • **Girl's room—Fabric coronas, pillows and draperies:** fabricated by Nora Kraener Draperies, Phoenix, (602) 373-1901; fabric from Scalamandre, Scottsdale, (480) 990-8181. • **Antique chest:** Euro Pine Imports. • **Bedding:** fabricated by Nora Kraener Draperies; fabric from Kravet Fabrics, Scottsdale, (480) 994-3900. • **Master bath—Zoffany wallpaper:** John Brooks Inc. • **Tile and fixtures:** Waterworks, Phoenix, (602) 912-9214. • **Cabinets:** Goodall Custom Wood Creations. **Master bedroom—Draperies, bedding and table covering in Clarence House fabric:** fabricated by Nora Kraener Draperies. • **Wallpaper:** John Brooks Inc. • **Santa painting:** Sweet Liberty. • **Potting room—**



Amazing Grace

The home of baseball great Mark Grace is an artful blend of comfort and style

Text by Judy Harper • Photography by Jeffrey Green • Portraits by Arthur Holeman