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GATHERING PLACE

A sprawling hacienda welcomes family and friends

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Why would a husband and wife who are empty nesters build an 8,000-square-foot home when their previous, much smaller house located just a few miles away had served them well?

"I guess you can explain it best by saying, 'If you build it, they will come,'" laughs homeowner Patty Barker, paraphrasing the quote from the film *Field of Dreams*. With four adult children scattered across the country, Patty and her husband, Paul, wanted to create a fun-filled, amenity-rich haven that would entice their children to return for extended visits.

With input from each child and ideas gleaned from the Barkers' global travels, a team of professionals crowned a grand lot in Paradise Valley, Arizona, with a sprawling hacienda ideal for large gatherings. The team included architect Clay Scrivner, builder Dan Reardon, interior designer Terese Messina, and landscape designer Greg Swick.

Using the color blue as a unifying element, Messina worked with Patty to fill the home with a mix of custom furnishings and savvy finds. In the family room, for example, custom sofas dressed in woven cotton blend with a 42-inch-tall antique ceremonial torch that Messina had electrified for use as a floor lamp. In the master bath, an antique chair and ottoman were refinished and recovered in terry cloth; they nest cozily alongside a glazed

ceramic-tile tub. Overhead, an old iron-and-crystal chandelier sparkles with new paint.

"Patty and I both like reusing things, whether from their previous home or by giving new life to a great antique," Messina states. "Plus, we both love a good deal."

Rooms in the home are spacious and comfortable, with such features as groin-vault ceilings and hand-scraped hickory flooring. Simplicity reigns, however, as exemplified in the lines of the fireplaces and furnishings. "Paul and Patty are not showy people," says Messina. "They wanted interiors that were comfortable and very down-to-earth but big enough to entertain lots of people."

The kitchen, especially, was planned for gatherings. Messina designed a 10-foot by 7-foot island to suit the space. The large island is put to good use, as the homeowners host a young adult group from church twice a month, when up to 50 people can be found socializing in the kitchen and adjacent family room.

The Barkers also have hosted a wedding in the entry courtyard and will open their home to approximately 450 people on the Nov. 9 Palette of Homes tour. These large gatherings suit them just fine. "Patty has the attitude that the house ought to be filled with people," says Paul. And Patty adds, "When we have all these people in our home, it just brings the house to life." □



The inviting entry courtyard features a cantera fountain accented with brightly colored Mexican tile. A fanciful iron grille covers the circular window over the front door.