



With one of the most iconic mountains in Arizona as a guide, architect Erik Peterson, founder of PHX Architecture, carefully sited a house in Phoenix so that views from certain rooms would be on axis with its peak. "It was surveyed and staked during the design to ensure it was perfect," Peterson says. "The axis alignment was almost exactly perpendicular to the slope of the site. Much like Frank Lloyd Wright's work, in our work we never build on top of the hill, but slightly below so that it is a part of the hillside and landscape."

The clients, a couple with two grown children and one at home, curated a museum-quality collection of art for the residence, and enlisted Donna Vallone for the interior design. Their philosophy and directive were clear: Showcase the artwork as in a museum, but maintain the comfort and functionality of a family home. The great room emphasizes this approach, where a chandelier by Hammerton creates a halo over the distant mountain, and modern sofas and club chairs rest on soft, sand-colored rugs from David E. Adler. Here, as well as in the kitchen and bath, ceiling recesses help guide the eye back to that peak. The interior palette is neutral, and pieces such as an engraved glass sink from Colorado-based maker Vitraform and Magni Home Collection's glass Carmel sconces ensure that the aesthetic stays firmly rooted in the West.

The home's low-slung horizontal roof planes and deep overhangs are not only a nod to the greats of the International Style movement, but they help protect both inhabitants and artwork from the searing desert sun. Big, colorful gestures are reserved strictly for the art and the outside world, in the form of bright blue and yellow pieces by Paola Lenti on the terrace, perfect for overlooking the landscaping by local firm Greey Pickett. "The client wanted a contemporary home similar to ones being built in L.A.—very different from those in Arizona," says Peterson. "There is a sophistication to the simplicity in the design as well as a stateliness to its formality." ■ PHX Architecture, [phxarch.com](http://phxarch.com); Vallone, [vallonedesign.com](http://vallonedesign.com)



# NEW ATTITUDE

INTERIOR DESIGN: MAGNI KALMAN DESIGN

TEXT: ARIANNE NARDO

PHOTOGRAPHY: MANOLO LANGIS













Embracing white walls and travertine floors, Parol envisioned a space in communion with the natural surroundings. "I wanted the house to have a connection to the environment and provide a really clear background for art," she says. The designers, both collectors, introduced the client to emerging artists like Callum Innes, whose abstract work is paired with an undulating Caste bench from Holly Hunt in the stairwell. Mary Borgman's charcoal work *Portrait of Justin Shanitkovich* is arresting not only as a composition but for the emotion it summons, simultaneously inviting you in and presiding over the interior.

With ocean views, open sky and soulful architecture, the site is naturally absorbing. Unlike a well-appointed and composed home, this residence isn't static; it is constantly reacting to its environment. Magni and Parol created an atmosphere that could shift with it. "I always tell clients, 'I can't compete with God,'" Magni says. "So let's just get out of the way and create a structure and spaces to sit on that enhance the work God has done." Rather than an austere showcase or a temple to perfection, the designers expanded on the serene setting without imposing too much.

"I wanted to bring in texture," says Parol. "It's a very, very contemporary house so it was important to present something you actually touch and feel, not just create something visual. And as a result the house is actually very warm." The team selected quiet, sculptural pieces that could handle the inside/outside transitions and still hold their own. Luxurious materials like silk velvet, cashmere, alpaca and mohair kept the space from becoming too cool. "It was a juxtaposition of very sleek refined metals against the rough woods or more organic shapes," Parol notes. Two Platner chairs from Knoll sit opposite a white leather Minotti armchair and ottoman, while a custom Mark Jupiter dining table features a sleek live edge. The client collects work by Omaha-based ceramic artist Jun Kaneko; two of his pieces add a colorful, handmade counterpoint to the neutral interiors.

The client encouraged the pair to use designs from the Magni Home Collection, and they conjured new pieces like the Henry sofa and round Jewel table in the living room and the Joanna bench in the master bedroom. "I like to think of the line as architecturally classic, which isn't totally in favor right this moment but it will be because it has been since Modernism was born, since Bauhaus was born," says Magni. "And to be able to use classic modern pieces against wooden stools carved by Holly Hunt, a Mark Jupiter dining table carved by hand—that juxtaposition is very beautiful. So whenever we use the collection, I think it takes on a different personality."

The master bedroom, a soft, blush space guided by Parol, features vintage table lamps by Cedric Hartman—another Omaha maker—and a photograph by Mona Kuhn. The palette is reminiscent of the sunset. It's an approach that favors the purity of just enough. "When I walk into that home, I see blue sky, I see water and I see great works of art. I don't want the furniture to make a big statement. It's simply to sit and be comfortable," says Magni. "To Joanna's credit, the palette is very easy on the eyes, and that's all you can expect from a home—it shouldn't do any more than that on a site like this." ■ *Magni Kalman Design, magnikalmandesign.com; Joanna Parol, joannaparol.com*







