

# UNDER THE TUCSON SUN

---

AN ELEGANT HILLTOP HACIENDA IN TUCSON, ARIZONA  
BECKONS WITH LAVISH INTERIORS, ROMANTIC OUTDOOR  
LIVING SPACES AND ARCHITECTURE THAT FEELS PERFECTLY AT  
HOME IN ITS SAGUARO SPRINKLED ENVIRONMENT.

PHOTOGRAPHY: ROGER WADE  
TEXT: DEBORAH DONOHUE



“ THE HACIENDA WAS  
CONSTRUCTED TO FEEL  
LIKE AN ORIGINAL ADOBE,  
BUT WITH A SPLASH OF  
MODERNITY. NOTE THE SLEEK  
LEATHER SECTIONAL AMONG  
THE ANTIQUITIES IN THE  
GREAT ROOM! ”

**A**n Old World patina is the hallmark of this stunning residence, a hacienda constructed to feel much like an original, authentically-designed adobe from the 1800s, but with a refreshing splash of modernity. Note the sumptuous leather sectional amidst the antiquities in the Great Room! Seamlessly melding with its surroundings, the structure was essentially hand built and lovingly appointed through the collaborative efforts of its imaginative owners, a host of artisanal craftsmen and an innovative architectural team.

“A GILDED CHEST OF DRAWERS STANDS IN THE DINING ROOM,

THE TRADITIONAL MEANS BY WHICH A PRIEST OR GENTLEMAN



T

They all shared a penchant for history and a taste for the elegance of a bygone era. Larry Pearson, founder of Pearson Design Group and known for his colorful storytelling, spearheaded the endeavor. Pearson begins each project with a story, myth or premise—one grounded in history yet practical—that both informs and ultimately takes visual form through his design and the natural environment in which he works. In this case Pearson wanted the hacienda to reflect what might have stood on the location three hundred years ago when nearby Mission San Xavier del Bac was flourishing. He researched the University of Arizona's historic archives to augment his own design elements for the project. The result is a Territorial style hacienda with South-of-the-border flair and a good dash of Spanish Colonial influence.

LEFT: CHAIRS AND TABLE ARE AMONG NUMEROUS FURNISHINGS HAND CARVED BY TODD GARDENIER FOR YELLOWSTONE TRADITIONS. THE ANTIQUE, GILDED CHEST OF DRAWERS (AGAINST THE FAR WALL) WAS THE TRADITIONAL MEANS BY WHICH A PRIEST OR A GENTLEMAN OF WEALTH WOULD TRANSPORT HIS POSSESSIONS FROM ONE LOCATION TO ANOTHER IN THE OLD WORLD.

OF MEANS WOULD TRANSPORT HIS POSSESSIONS IN THE OLD WORLD. ”



The hacienda is replete with a variety of antiques and furnishings from Mexico, South America and Europe. Desks and tables that are hundreds of years old rest on richly hued rugs collected on the owners' treks to Istanbul. Religious iconography, evident throughout the home, imparts an atmosphere of sacredness to everyday life. The Remington sculpture in the loggia is one of many artworks that grace the premises.



ABOVE: IT'S A DOG'S LIFE ON A TIME-SOFTENED HAND LOOMED RUG IN THE FINE ART-ACCENTED LOGGIA.

OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: IN THE PEACEFUL BEDROOM, A PLEIN AIR PAINTING KEEPS COMPANY WITH A PRETTY TIFFANY LAMP PERCHED ON AN ORNATE BEDSIDE TABLE. THE BED ITSELF, WITH ITS EXQUISITELY DETAILED FINIALS, IS ANOTHER CREATION OF TODD GARDENIER, AND SERVES AS A MASTERFUL CENTERPIECE FOR THE ROOM'S DESIGN.

A CROSS TUCKED INTO A STONE GROTTTO ON THE FLOWER-FILLED TERRACE HIGHLIGHTS THE INIMITABLE LANDSCAPE OF THE SONORAN DESERT.

AN ANTIQUE BAPTISMAL FONT SERVES AS AN UNEXPECTED POWDER ROOM BASIN. RELIGIOUS BOOKS OF EVERY ORDER LINE THE SHELVES.

“THE SHADED LOGGIA AND REFRESHING COURTYARD POOL

OFFER NEEDED RESPITE IN THE VALLEY OF THE SUN. ”



T

The hacienda is constructed of rastra block, an insulating concrete form used to make walls; when covered with plaster and stucco, it imparts the feel of adobe. Most of the hacienda walls are 2-to-3 feet thick. Window surrounds are hand-carved and beveled to resemble an authentic adobe, lending ornamentation and character. Soft and carvable rose-hued Canterra stone, quarried in Mexico and used throughout the residence and loggia, provides an earthy and understated aesthetic. Ironwork, windows and doors were all lovingly handcrafted. A combination of aged and re-purposed woods, including antiqued pine planks, white oak and carved mesquite ground the house's "bones" in nature's textures and stability. Combined, the choice of materials creates a serene and comforting sense of timelessness. The shady loggia and pool-splashed courtyard are perfect for year round alfresco dining in this land of sun and saguaros.

#### RESOURCES

##### ARCHITECT

Larry Pearson  
Pearson Design Group  
[www.pearsondesigngroup.com](http://www.pearsondesigngroup.com)

##### CONTRACTOR

Yellowstone Traditions  
[www.yellowstonetraditions.com](http://www.yellowstonetraditions.com)