



OPEN PORTFOLIO

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An interior designer can be an important ally when creating a beautiful and comfortable home that reflects the owner's style and personality. A trained professional has the talent, resources, and experience to bring a vision to life, elegantly resolve architectural challenges and save an owner from making a costly mistake. This open portfolio, featuring various elements of a sophisticated Southwest style, showcases what can be possible.

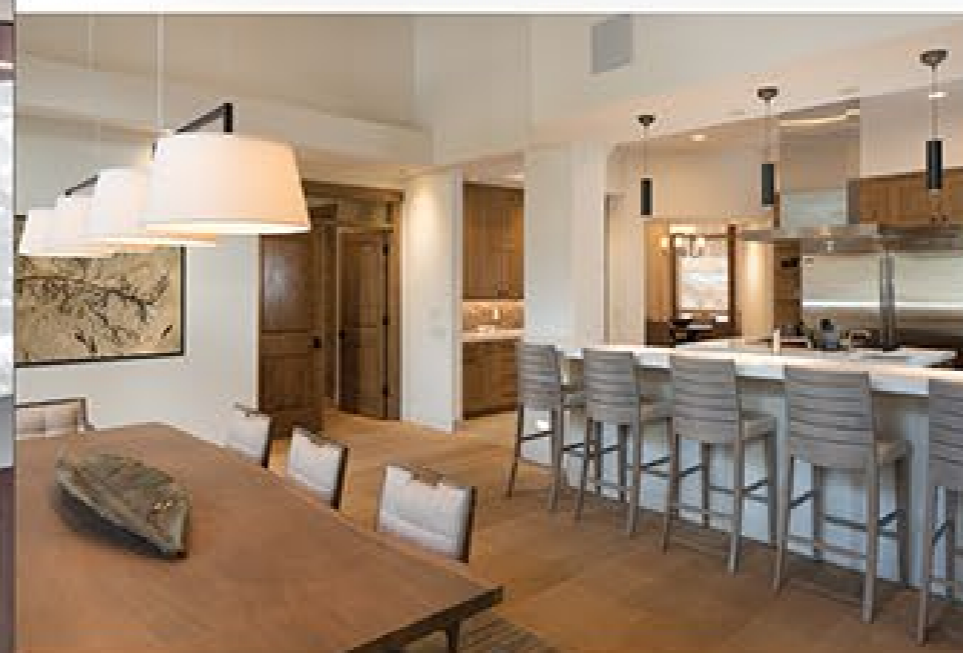
DESIGNING WITH INTENTION. A few well-chosen furnishings can give a room a distinctive flair. An existing dining room table set was transformed by adding custom-designed host and hostess chairs. Also notable in this subtle and serene space are the natural walnut console, rug, wall art, and well-placed lighting fixtures. A chandelier spreads out a soft glow, and scones, which frame the art, wash the wall with light. Floor-to-ceiling windows and a slider visually bring the outside in, and they encourage easy access to the outdoors. Keeping the color palette neutral allows the views to pop.



ADDING WOW TO A KITCHEN. This sustainably conscious kitchen is a dramatic mixture of textures with its black walnut cabinets, porcelain tile floors, white quartz countertops and a backsplash of porcelain and coconut shells. In an innovative departure from the norm, the backsplash goes to the ceiling and wraps around the window. A pendant light fixture adds a dramatic finish. In addition to mixing different hard surfaces together, the modern Southwestern style also blends different woods and metals. There is a movement away from using one species of wood throughout the house.



OUTDOOR LIVING IN THE PINES. In the Southwest, a home's interior design often centers around an indoor/outdoor lifestyle. So that the residents and guests of this vacation home in Flagstaff could spend as much time as possible outdoors, the designer put space heaters into the ceiling. A fire table, with mesmerizing flames across the middle, adds a dramatic element for warmth and entertaining. Other focal points are the flat-screen television and the forested view. Swivel chairs allow easy transition from one view to another. And the leaf-motif on the stain-resistant fabrics echoes the surrounding aspens.



COOKING AND SERVING, MODERN MOUNTAIN STYLE.

People are getting away from darker colors that weigh down their spirit; they want to lighten up and brighten up. Here, a row of four drum-shaped lights accentuate the free-form, custom-designed, walnut-slab dining table. Light grey Italian bar stools add a casual element in the kitchen, and a very special piece of art in the dining area reflects the owners' interests. The framed wall piece highlights a 16-million-year-old fossil that was found in the bottom of a river bed in Montana: a special touch located by the designer.

A WINNING STRATEGY FOR A GREAT ROOM. Focusing on the purpose of a room, and then building the room's furnishings around that focal point creates a cohesive and functional design. Here, the designer moved away from the usual tendency to split a great room in half to create separate focal points. Instead, she embraced both the fireplace and television with a 132-inch long, custom-designed sofa that is centered in the room. The sofa encourages conversation from one end of the room to the other, and smaller coffee tables keep the feeling intimate. Benches can be moved out for extra seating. Vertical boxes near the television create balancing height, and lush textiles cozy up the room. A branch motif on the silk fabrics continues the home's woody theme. Swivel chairs near the window make it easy to enjoy the outside view.





OUTDOOR LIVING IN THE RED ROCKS.

Outdoor spaces are extremely important when entertaining in a panoramic-rich town like Sedona. People enjoy looking out and appreciating the beauty of nature. Here, the designer carried the interior style of the redesigned home to the outdoors. She created a unified feel and look by including eclectic sentimental objects and animal-inspired art. Custom-made furniture enhances the high-end look.

VACATIONING IN COMFORT IN THE PINES.

Keeping everyone cozy and connected was a goal in this family/game room. A custom-sized, U-shaped sectional sofa fits the room perfectly. A taller than average bistro table looks over the sofa, so that everyone is in view. Using an ottoman for the coffee table adds both seen and unseen advantages over the traditional wood alternative: The ottoman is a cushy surface on which to put one's feet, and it doubles as a storage unit for throws and board games, reducing clutter and maximizing the space.



DESIGNING AROUND ART. The homeowner's favorite piece of angel art inspired the colors, textures, and mood of this entrancing master bedroom. Notice the central position of the angelic painting in the room, which is enhanced by a wall of windows that look up toward the sky, a shimmering duvet, hand-blown glass lamps, three concave mirrors above the bed that create depth and texture, and the woven, retractable window coverings that enhance the warmth and beauty of the space while eliminating unsightly chords.



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Good design is tailored for people's lives. We all love beautiful things—humans have a need for balance, beauty and harmony in our living spaces. But it must be comfortable and functional to remain well designed.

Stephanie Larsen

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