



FUNCTIONAL LUXURY

by Sedona's Top-Rated Interior Designer

*by Sylvia Somerville
photos provided by Stephanie Larsen*



Stephanie Larsen is passionate about interior design. "I love being creative every day," she says. "It's like being an artist with a canvas, and each step you take is making the canvas come to life."

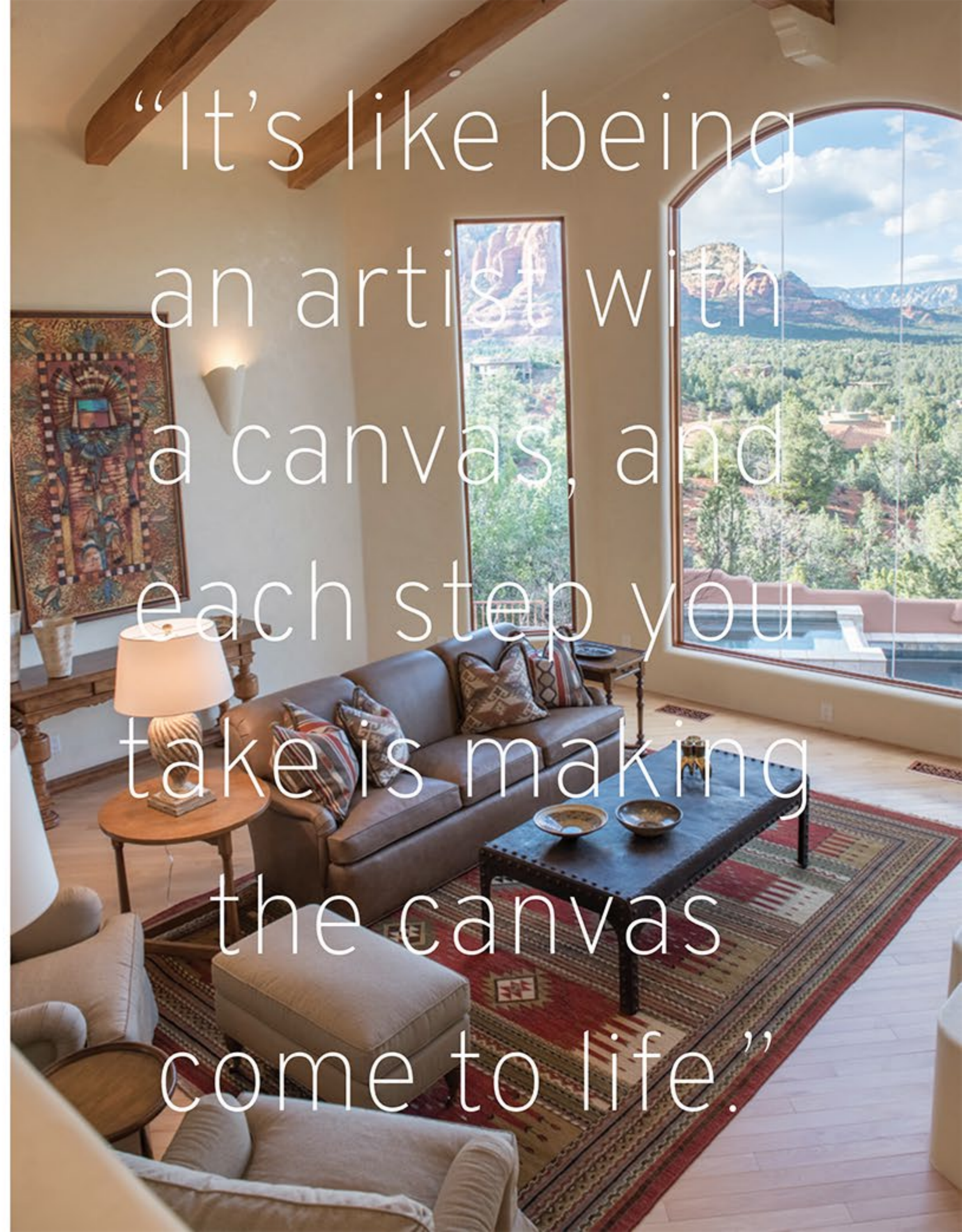
Larsen's pursuit of excellence has earned her accolades both nationally (on Houzz) and in Sedona (voted "Best Interior Designer" by Kudos readers every year since 2009). She designs beautiful luxury homes that are comfortable and functional and tailored to the preferences of her clients.

"I listen to what clients have to say. My designs reflect their personality and taste. The contributions I make include knowing how to put things together, what works and what doesn't, how a home flows from one room to the next, and where the best resources can be found. Someone who is not an interior designer is not going to know what's out there. I really know the market. So there is no need to hire a designer from New York, Los Angeles, or Scottsdale. I have the

expertise and the knowledge," says Larsen.

Larsen strikes a balance between keeping abreast of design possibilities and trends and developing strong collaborative partnerships in Sedona, where she has lived for nearly two decades.

Being in town for so many years is one of Stephanie's strengths. She knows who to use, whose quality is reliable. She works with architects, general contractors, painters, cabinet makers, granite artisans, tile setters, and window-covering experts. She's done her homework. She incorporates design elements from local resources—whether that's furniture made from reclaimed wood, a bronze sink, or a painting from a local gallery. She believes you are only as good as the people you work with and the resources you have. Proximity to town also gives her the opportunity to keep an eye on the project and to make sure that the design is moving forward as planned.



"It's like being an artist with a canvas, and each step you take is making the canvas come to life."



"Ultimately my style and color choices reflect each and every client's personal tastes."

When asked if she has a signature style, Larsen says she leans toward a warm color palette and a look that is sophisticated and timeless whether the style is modern, Mediterranean, Zen, French country, Spanish ranch, or Southwestern. But, she adds, "ultimately my style and color choices reflect each and every client's personal tastes."

Just because someone is living in Sedona, doesn't mean they must choose a Southwestern design (although she does Southwestern very well). You don't have to have the red rocks, the terracotta, or the sage green in your home. The backdrop of Sedona creates the beauty, the view, and your home can be who you are.

She always tells people when they are building or remodeling a home to use a neutral palette for appliances, counter tops, and major pieces of furniture. Pops of color can come in the artwork, the rugs, the pillows, and other accessories that can easily be changed. Having a neutral background creates a timeless look.

Where does Larsen find her inspiration? She finds her inspiration by traveling, being outdoors in Sedona, visiting design centers, going to trade shows, seeing the new fabric lines, educating herself as an active member of ASID (the American Society of Interior Designers), and seeing how other designers have put things together in commercial properties, such as high-end hotels and restaurants. Then she put her own twist on what she sees.

The delight that Larsen gets from the end product is the same thrill she felt when she first discovered design as a teenager: seeing her vision come to fruition. Designing a home takes time and diligence. So at the end, when all the hard surfaces are in, the furniture truck arrives, everything is put in place, the last picture is hung on the wall, and the accessories are placed on the coffee table – that's when she can sit back and look up and say, "This is amazing! This is worth it."