

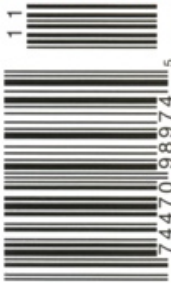
ARIZONA

# Home & Design



## *Far Niente Palazzo*

An Italian inspiration celebrates flavorful, relaxed living



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*The great room's Douglas fir beams have been distressed and stained for a weathered look. Large windows look westward toward the 18th hole of the Chiricahua golf course.*



# Flaunting its Figure

A showy estate parades its good looks  
at Desert Mountain ☞ By David M. Brown



You can tell when someone wants to be looked at, and the same is true of buildings. They're the ones sporting a little more va-va-voom than the rest, skirting the margins of mainstream—the ones putting it out there, no matter how much attention they attract.

Beyond the gates of Desert Mountain, down a winding road through the Saguaro Forest village, lies the magnificent clubhouse, a 25,000-square-foot eidolon boasting views of the Chiricahua golf course. And towering above its tile roof is a bold 9,000-square-foot estate by Dugally Oberfeld.

Known as the "Builder for the Stars," Dugally Oberfeld, based out of Bel Air, Calif.,

started building homes in Arizona at the beginning of 2004. For more than 50 years, co-principals Mauricio Oberfeld and Matt Dugally have been building champion homes for stars, including John Wayne, Sylvester Stallone, Denzel Washington, Geena Davis and Martin Lawrence.

Greens unfolding below the home's immaculate vantage point are one of six Jack Nicklaus signature golf courses at Desert Mountain. Dubbed "Best Golf Community" by the *Robb Report*, it's no surprise Dugally Oberfeld expanded its territory to include Desert Mountain.

This home's architectural design was done by Jim Hann, AIA, of James Hann Design in



[www.desertmountain.com](http://www.desertmountain.com)  
[www.dugally-oberfeld.com](http://www.dugally-oberfeld.com)

Scottsdale, who also helped with interior design efforts along with Oberfeld. The three-level home has a total of five bedrooms and five bathrooms. A master and guest casita on the main level anchor the floorplan, with two bedrooms plus a junior master suite nesting on the upper level.

"Most importantly, we wanted a house that would maximize views," says Oberfeld. "This is arguably the best location with the best view in all of Desert Mountain. We were blessed with a fantastic view of the city, mountains and sunsets."

Positioning the home toward the west posed challenges to design and

*Top left: Despite Arizona's warm weather, it gets chilly during the winter months. Here, a stone fireplace makes the bright room warm and inviting.*

*Top right: "By orienting the home to the west, almost every room in the home takes advantage of these views," Hann says. Homes at Desert Mountain have sightlines of pristine desert, city lights and unobstructed views of fairways.*

*Bottom: Adjacent to the great room, the sunken in dining room looks out toward pristine fairways.*



*Above: "I think the shower in the master bath is the coolest we have ever built," Oberfeld says, crediting marble supplier and contractor J.R. McDade who contributed to its design. "This is a shower with so much thought and design, an entire article could be written on it." Large, rough-cut stone on the back wall is washed in sunlight streaming from a skylight. The triple-valve, triple-supply, flush-mounted Hansgrohe overhead shower makes this a highly sophisticated space.*

siting. For one, the layout needed to celebrate the prominent location next to the clubhouse and also privatize this \$8 million estate.

"One of the reasons for the negative-edge pool and other water features was to create 'white noise' to mask the clubhouse [noise]," explains Hann.

Because westerly views are problematic for sun-control, most rooms have an overhang or shade structure. One exception is the great room, as sun control was managed from the interior.

"The intent is to handle the sun with drapes and shades," Hann says. "A retractable shade can be installed that is controlled by a solar eye; as the sun

goes down, the shade goes down."

The Old World residence, with its Mediterranean influence, matches that of the clubhouse, which was inspired by a Sardinian farmhouse in an olive grove. Both structures are detailed and finished with plaster walls, chiseled stone and hickory and marble flooring.

Although the home is large, its individual spaces are intimate because of their exquisite design details: gourmet kitchen and adjacent butler's pantry; wine cellar in the basement; and home theater. The merging of quantity and quality gives this expansive estate an eye-catching attitude of unhindered confidence. 