

Perfectly manicured boxwoods highlight this Arizona home's French Colonial-style architecture. "It's on a large lot—a full acre with a lot of grass—and that appealed to us," homeowner Kristy Kufel says. A fireplace provides privacy for a seating area just to the left of the front door.

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STUNNING ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS, LAYERS OF FABULOUS FABRICS, AND GLORIOUS GROUNDS BRING THE SPIRIT OF PROVENCE TO A HOME IN PHOENIX.

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THIS PHOTO: A grand chandelier in the dining room, which interior designer Lori Clarke relocated from a hallway, draws the eye to soaring 15-foot ceilings. The oversize hutch is filled with pottery and dishware collected by Kristy. OPPOSITE: The Kufels and Clarke count the living room—featuring comfy velvet-clad sofas and vintage tables—as their favorite spot in the house.



European getaways often leave a lasting impression, but for Kristy and Eric Kufel, a specific transformation happened after their first trip to Provence. Whether you chalk it up to the area's 300 days of annual sunshine; the charming markets stocked with fresh produce, breads, and cheeses; the centuries-old churches; the farmhouses surrounded with fields of lavender; or the endless glasses of rosé; the couple fell in love. They found themselves returning to the region year after year. "I've always been a bit of a Francophile," Kristy says. "But we're especially drawn to the countryside. Our daughter even studied there."

When the couple espied a for-sale sign in front of a 7,000-square-foot French Colonial in their Phoenix neighborhood, it felt natural to try to capture a little

Provence at home in Arizona. "The vibe from the outside is grand, but once you get inside, it feels very cozy," Kristy says. "There are interesting architectural details like the arches, doorways, and fireplaces, but nothing is overly ornate. My husband and I aren't fancy, so we were drawn to the home's casualness." The only problem? The existing interiors felt dark and heavy and lacked the French connection the couple longed for.

Enter interior designer Lori Clarke, who brought about a light renaissance with new color and fabric choices. "The plaster walls, exposed beams, white oak floors—that was all there," Clarke says. "We just had to create a softer, more serene interior." So out went a host of Mediterranean-inspired greens, golds, and burgundies, and in came an abundance of neutrals,

“Provence has the owners’ hearts. We wanted to create the feeling of that particular place.”

—interior designer LORI CLARKE



THIS PHOTO: The kitchen, which was renovated by previous owners, is a welcome gathering place thanks to a warm mix of reclaimed and painted woods, old-school brick, and glass-fronted cabinetry. OPPOSITE TOP: Blue accent pieces offer a nod to the Côte d’Azur in the great room. OPPOSITE BOTTOM: A pretty hallway nook wrapped by Clarke in a textural wallcovering draws the eye.



along with pops of blues and greens that speak to the home’s engaging flow between the indoors and outdoors.

French doors open off the front of the house, as well as almost every room along the back. From the dining room, the doors swing open to a charming front seating area snuggled up to a fireplace. In the back, a private oasis unfurls. Lemon and orange trees cast shade over a grassy expanse of lawn along with a pool, sports court, and manicured boxwood hedges bordering a mix of annual and perennial flowers. Deep loggias shade a seating area and outdoor kitchen, providing cool relief from Arizona’s hot sun.



OPPOSITE: An outdoor kitchen just off the great-room hosts family and friends for cookouts and happy hours. ABOVE LEFT: Plentiful seating in the front courtyard is surrounded by a low boxwood hedge that fosters a roomlike feel. ABOVE RIGHT: New romantic botanical wallpaper lightens the powder room. BELOW LEFT: The homeowners' collection of Impressionist paintings sets the palette for the breakfast room. A vintage table and chairs are softened by benches covered in flirty blue fabric. BELOW RIGHT: A dining table and chairs surrounded by mature trees make *plein air* dining a delight.





THIS PHOTO: A claw-foot tub offers a place to relax in the primary bath, which is awash in marble and natural light. OPPOSITE TOP: The canopy bed adds drama to the high-ceilinged primary bedroom. On chilly nights, the warmth of the hearth is enjoyed from a pair of comfortable vintage chairs. OPPOSITE BOTTOM: Clarke carved out a work space between a pair of bookshelves in the primary bedroom. "It offers the most beautiful view out to my backyard," Kristy says. "It's so light and bright, so it's a great place to work."



The easy access to the outdoors and the extensive windows foster a strong connection to nature that Clarke capitalized on with furniture selections crafted from earthy materials, such as stone and wood. She added softness via linen draperies and upholstery in the great-room and dining area, creamy velvet in the formal living room, and vintage rugs throughout.

Artwork also played a big role in the home's transformation. Clarke had a great head start thanks to Eric's collection of Impressionist paintings. She gathered them all—and searched for more—to create a dramatic gallery wall in the dining room.

"One of my favorite things about my house is that there are so many little vignettes, and we use every single one," Kristy says. "It's just such a happy place." ❁
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