

One Family, Two Lifestyles

By Elizabeth Exline

IF YOU WANT TO FEEL AT HOME EVEN WHEN YOU'RE ON VACATION, CONSIDER CONSULTING YOUR REAL ESTATE AGENT ABOUT ACQUIRING A SECOND HOME. FOR TWO RESIDENCES CAN BE A CURE-ALL FOR VARIED LIKES AND INTERESTS. NEED PROOF? MEET PAULA AND MARTY WEBER, WHOSE RELAXED, CONTEMPORARY HOUSE IN SCOTTSDALE AND ROOMY, LODGE-LIKE ABODE IN PRESCOTT, ARIZONA ACCOMMODATE THEIR NEEDS FOR COMFORT AND EFFICIENCY WHILE EXPRESSING THEIR ASSORTED DESIGN PREFERENCES.



THOUGH JUST TWO HOURS APART, THE WEBERS' TWO HOMES
HAVE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT **climates**
THAT ALLOW THEM TO ENJOY ALL FOUR SEASONS.

OF COURSE, the Chicagoan Webbers didn't start out thinking they'd build two homes in Arizona. Lured west by the desert, they settled in Scottsdale's Desert Highlands "on a lark," Marty says. They had a second home in Florida, but after sweating through a tedious series of desert summers, they began looking for a seasonal escape easier to make.

"We wanted something [so we could] get away, and we're really not much of travelers," Paula explains. So she and Marty visited Payson, but the temperature drop wasn't significant enough to override its provinciality: They explored San Diego, but it was too pricey and too far away. Finally, they chose Prescott's Hassayampa community for its cooler climes, smaller development, bigger lots and two-hour proximity to Scottsdale.

The most significant difference between the two cities—the climate—necessitated each house's dominating features. The roof on the Webbers' Scottsdale residence is contemporary and flat, whereas the roof on their Prescott home is crowned with a pitched room more amenable to snow. The up-and-down rooftop mirrors the undulating Hassayampa lot, and the house cantilevers down it, creating more square footage and a different floor plan from the Desert Highlands abode.

Inside, each house pays homage to its surroundings. "Everything here [in Scottsdale] is more refined," notes Tony

Sutton, the head interior designer for Est Est, Inc. He points to the home's gleaming marble floor, and continues, saying, "There's a marble floor up there [in Prescott, too], but it's a tumbled stone. It's got a matte finish with a lot of different color variation." The Prescott house also felled more than a few trees for its ceilings and walls, where in Scottsdale, the surfaces shift between a beige faux finish, stone and, in the dining room, a vibrant red faux finish. Similarly, wooden beams stretch along the living room

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PROJECT PROS

ARCHITECT:

The late George Christensen,
George Christensen Architecture

BUILDER:

Guy Naus, Naus Construction (Prescott house
only); 928.778.5903; www.nausconstruction.com

INTERIOR DESIGNERS:

Tony Sutton, Paula McKain and, in the
Prescott house, Ashley Berardi, Est, Est, Inc.;
480.563.1555; www.estest.com



The Coats of Contemporary

There may just be one Tuscan look or one Southwestern look, but contemporary design is a jack of all styles. "There are probably as many different variations of contemporary design as there are people's opinions," observes Tony Sutton, head interior designer at Est Est, Inc.

Most recognized (and often stereotyped) is the "hard-line" contemporary, with its angular and high-tech manifestations. Then there's the softer, curvier post-Modern contemporary. West Coasters have left their thumbprint on the style, too. "There's that sort of California-Palm Springs contemporary, which is essentially softer lines, neutrals, rattan and wicker and light wood finishes," the designer adds.

See a trend? Climate is the source of many stylistic idiosyncrasies. Hence the cooler hues and breathable materials that pop up in warmer states like Arizona and California, and the bright colors that sweep through homes embittered by winter winds.

In fact, environments are so persuasive that other factors—personal preference, stage of life and the existing art and furniture collections—may become secondary. "You want to... focus on what are the shortcomings of your overall surroundings and habitat and lifestyle to help shore those up," Sutton advises. "Then focus on exploiting the strengths that you have and expanding on those."



"THE opportunity OF LIVING IN THE SAME STATE IN TWO DIFFERENT CLIMATES MAKES IT TERRIFIC," SAYS HOMEOWNER MARTY WEBER.

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ceiling to the stone fireplace in Scottsdale, but wood dominates the ceiling all the way to the deck in Prescott.

The dichotomy between the residences isn't so complete, however, that there are no ligaments to bind them because some things, like ample storage and sweeping views, are worth repeating. Efficiency of space—you won't find many hallways in either house and rooms are proportioned according to use, not tradition—is a trademark of their architect, the late George Christensen, who was a disciple of Frank Lloyd Wright.

Even each house's art bears some resemblance to one another. The Prescott collection plays up a Western motif that's more subdued in the Scottsdale home. And a painting of wine and grapes graces both the Scottsdale kitchen nook and the Prescott refreshment center.

In both houses the refreshment center serves as a gathering place for guests. "Whether you're having iced tea, lemonade or gin and tonic, everybody loves to hang around the bar," Paula says. So in their Scottsdale home, comfortable barstools position their occupants for gazing past the smallish sunken bar, out a window and onto the desert landscape. In Prescott, the mammoth, Old West-type bar is enclosed by a wall on which the Webers installed a plasma TV.

When explaining the philosophy behind these homes, Sutton says this: "[A woman] can go and get a makeover and totally change her look, but it's the same person, the same function."

If different outfits accommodate different activities, then different cities inspire different lifestyles for the same two people. For the Webers, Prescott's small-town charm, where life slows down a notch and carolers stroll the streets at Christmastime, is just as appealing as Scottsdale's metropolitan bustle. "Culturally, it's a completely different setting," Sutton says. "That's the goal, because you want to remove yourself from your regular routine."

Mobility and versatility are two of the greatest boons of having two homes two hours apart. "The opportunity of living in the same state in two different climates makes it terrific," Marty says. Moving between them is practically effortless—they never have to pack to go on "vacation"—and it's easy to check on whichever house they're not occupying. "We're thrilled with these two homes," Marty says earnestly. "We enjoy them, we like them and, hopefully, we'll spend the rest of our lives in them." ✨



THE WEBERS' PRESCOTT HOME (OPPOSITE AND ABOVE) REFLECTS THEIR CASUAL, OUTDOORSY SIDE. BY CONTRAST, THEIR SCOTTSDALE RESIDENCE (BELOW) DENOTES THE COUPLES AFFECTION FOR CONTEMPORARY CITY LIVING.

