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MAGAZINE

Harmony

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ELEMENTS** AND A MODERN AESTHETIC



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Welcome to May, a time of renewal, growth and progress. These themes of transition envelop our stories this issue.

First and foremost, the magazine is showcasing a Flagstaff home and how it came to be with a look at a family in transition—going from a house that served the needs of six to a residence made for two and the capacity for welcoming visitors.

Our 2017 Home of the Year was a grand residence, this year's selection is a contemporary home designed by local artisans for comfort and purpose. Thanks to the Conigliari family for inviting us to a look inside.

Secondly, we chat with Arizona artist Michael Pierre Price, whose work is currently showing at the Coconino Center for the Arts. His digitally produced art transcends our notions of place and time with abstract, fractal and surreal concepts. The artist names his group of prints on display as “enigmatic landscapes.” He forms his otherworldly visions from the practice of math, science and spirituality.

Lastly, in our Spotlight this month, we hear from Dr. Christina Hibbert, Flagstaff mom, psychologist, author and Arizona's Mother of the Year. She tells us of the hardships that led to her work at being the best mother she can be and her road to helping other moms do the same. “No other group is more exceptional than moms, and I would love for mothers to embrace their exceptionality,” she says.

I hope you'll discover some inspiration in these stories and find the month of May to be fruitful.

Thank you for reading Northern Arizona's Mountain Living Magazine. 🏔️

Nancy Wiechec
nwiechec@azdailysun.com

Harmony





CUSTOM DWELLING EMBRACES NATURE AND A MODERN AESTHETIC

BY G SHANAHAN • PHOTOGRAPHY BY NANCY WIECHEC



n arched asymmetrical canopy of wood and iron at the entrance sets the tone for this contemporary mountain home. The style, a

harmony of modern and natural elements, reverberates beyond the door as two curved walls, one an assemblage of chiseled quadrilateral stones, lead to the heart of the dwelling built for comfort and purpose.

Deviating from traditional mountain architecture, new homes such as this are showcasing clean lines, capitalizing on expansive views and yielding thoughtfully to the environment. Such updated styles are becoming a more popular design choice in northern Arizona, joining the ranks of other mountain towns—Jackson Hole, Missoula, Aspen—that adopted them much earlier. Although slower to dot the local landscape, several of these new builds are leaving indelible marks throughout Flagstaff. One is the Conigliari residence, a 3,000-square-foot home in the serene community of Pine Canyon.

In their new home, Paul and Sandy Conigliari incorporated a modern aesthetic, dual functioning spaces and a plan to minimize waste and the consumption of energy. Set in a private cul-de-sac that backs to the Coconino National Forest, their home has an open-concept design with a focus on simplicity and structure.

The couple wanted a residence that would offer their adult children room to be welcomed back without constraints and without wasting space in their absence. They also wanted a home to reflect the community they love.

Their roots in Flagstaff run deep. The Conigliari children went to school here, and Paul was a local produce distributor for many years. He turned to mortgage work 15 years ago. As the Flagstaff branch manager for PrimeLending, he's come to know quite well those in the local housing and building market. The couple wanted to sustain these relationships by employing local tradespeople and artisans as much as possible in the creation of their new home.

The Conigliaris chose to work with Aude Stang, owner of the Flagstaff-based Architectural Design Studio. Stang, who earned the equivalent of a master's degree in architecture with an emphasis in natural and sustainable building from France's National School of Architecture in Paris, is active in Coconino County's sustainable building program. She's won numerous awards for her work in this area. The couple chose Kevin Baltzell of Harmony Builders to construct the house because they valued the contractor's mix of experience, knowledge and flexibility. "Kevin is also very familiar with Pine Canyon's stringent guidelines and has been involved in



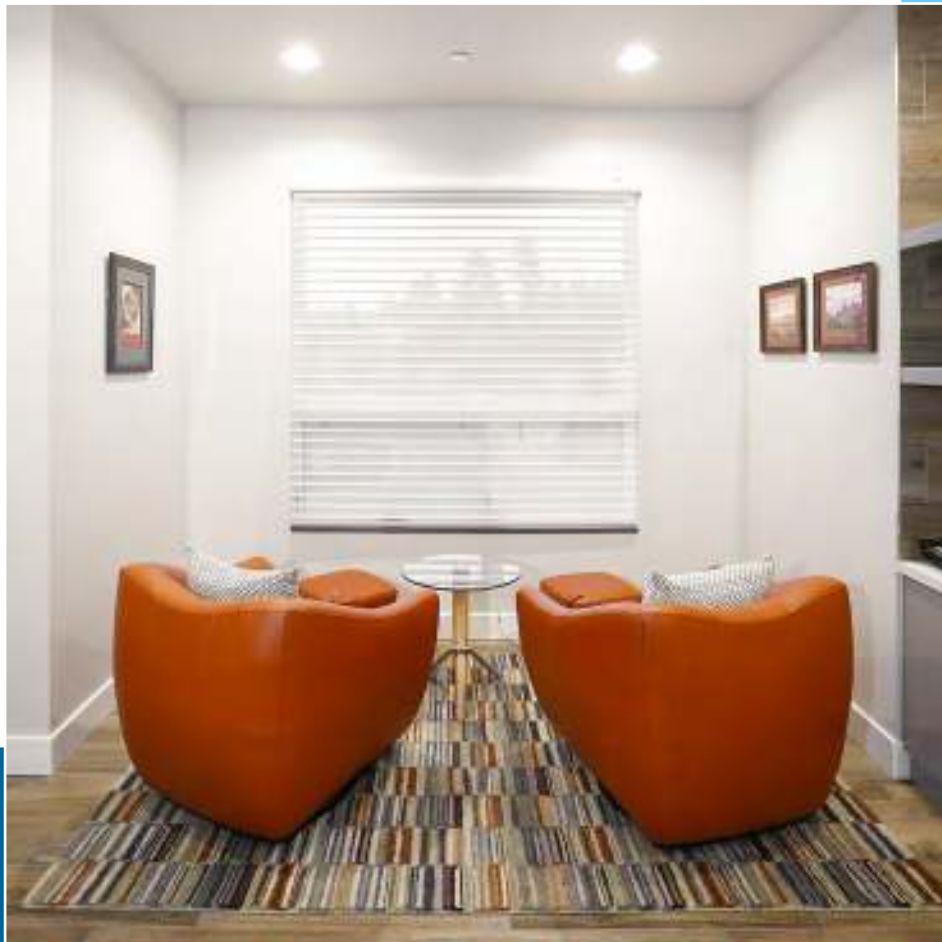
the Coconino County sustainability program. He had worked well with Aude on other projects and we felt comfortable that we could all work well as a team,” says Sandy.

The process began with a discussion identifying interests and needs. Stang considered the Conigliaris’ wish list and the property, including any possible limitations to their pie-shaped lot and the ability to incorporate renewable, innovative and sustainable building methods that met local requirements. Stang also met with the Conigliaris at their existing home to assess how they live. She asked questions like, “Are you an early riser?” and “What do your mornings look like?” Their responses would help the designer understand how they live and, more importantly, what they liked about living that way. The couple soon learned that among Aude’s strengths was her ability to metabolize the layers of information and understand the emotions behind their desires. This step proved to be a crucial beginning, as communications

between Stang and the Conigliaris were often twice a day for a year and a half.

The family also embraced the opportunity to pare down and get rid of stuff. They donated all household items that wouldn’t fit the new aesthetic or were not treasured keepsakes. To keep the focus on sculpture and form, they replaced their furnishings with pieces that are low-profile and restrained. Among the art that complements and accentuates their living space are pieces by area artists Marsha Owen, Kelly Janecek, Kate Hoyer and M.J. Wee.

Paul provided the initial inspiration for the new home—the floor to ceiling curved stone wall that leads from the entry into the central living area. He had seen a similar feature in another Flagstaff home and loved the idea of deviating from a traditional foyer. The Black Canyon Telluride stone wall consists of a pattern of rectangles and squares. Stang designed around this beautiful heritage stone and wall, giving the home continuity from the outside façade to the interior space. ➔



The Conigliaris also longed to meld details and forward-thinking design with the exterior and the views that surrounded them. Their material palette consisted of stone, wood, iron, concrete and glass. Every opportunity to bring the outside in is evident in this dramatic turn from traditional mountain homes. Hewn timber, sleek metal and a light color palette replace the dark, raw and rustic feel. Streamlined, sexier and sunlit, these contemporary homes incorporate more adventurous interior options than their predecessors. Throughout the Conigliari home, natural light pours through windows and transoms creating winter warmth through passive energy. It's one of the many energy-saving elements that earned the house a Coconino County sustainability award this year.

A particular interior option the Conigliaris chose is the pop of color on the kitchen island. There, turquoise cabinets provide a touch of whimsy and contrast to the mostly white and gray kitchen. Anderson Quality Woodworking of Flagstaff produced the kitchen cabinets. Stang designed the industrial range hood with Cataract Canyon Iron Works. Stuart Henderson, a local metalsmith, consulted on the final touches and assisted with the hardware. The island countertop is a broad expanse of white quartz with veins of blue, grey and putty. It drops down on one side to provide another surface area. The tiered station passively introduces the kitchen nook, a desk and quaint office space.

Behind a sliding barn door in the kitchen are a continuation of turquoise cabinets and storage shelves. The walk-in pantry includes a coffee station and other kitchen appliances. This space allows the kitchen to be free of clutter, giving it a clean look and optimal space for food prep and relaxed socializing.

Also on the wish list was Paul's desire for a keeping room, an old-fashioned concept turned new again. Traditionally located off the kitchen, this small space holds the warmth of the home. With a bar, fireplace and casual seating, the room is for intimate gatherings and conversations. The stone entry and wall and the transitional Colerne fixtures with warm nostalgic bulbs and black iron accents marry to







create a cozy hideaway from the light-filled kitchen and great room. The keeping room fixtures, along with other lighting choices, were purchased locally from the Lite Company.

With the new home, Sandy's focus centered more on the use of space and organization. She was impressed with Aude's space-saving European designs, and multi-functional concepts were employed in each room to maximize living area and usage. For example, the media room doubles as an optional bedroom using modular furniture. The library on the west end of the home has conversion pieces that transition the room into yet another bedroom. The library exudes a Scandinavian feel with floor to ceiling built-ins and creative shelving and nooks. A pocket door on the south wall opens to reveal a small kitchenette that flows into a second master suite. The combination of these rooms gives the effect of a home within a home, well suited for guests. These quarters provide access to forest views and two outdoor fire features; one a traditional exterior fireplace, the other a collaboration between Paul and Ashby Smith of Deep Roots Landscaping. Ashby created Paul's concept of a fireplace and water feature in one. Loyal to the Conigliaris' love of dual function, the oblong piece can be either a waterfall element or fire feature, or, for added drama, both. The outdoor spaces offer peaceful retreats and enjoyment of the surrounding forest.

Another feature that celebrates the outdoors is the great room fireplace, a hallmark of mountain houses. The same Telluride stone found elsewhere in the home runs floor to ceiling in the hearth and panel. Executed by Flagstaff Hearth and Home, the mantle is a steel I-beam accented with washers and bolts that complement the black metal tie trusses above the room. By adding bench seating at the hearth and extending it along the wall, the design provides additional space for friends and family to gather. Strategically placed niches create an illuminated gallery to showcase art objects.

The Conigliaris beam with excitement when talking about their new home. It captures the couple's current complexion, not that of their past. Their journey is not unlike the new build, transitioning from what once was to a more modern ideal. They have drawn from their experiences, found an environment that best sustains them and invited the involvement of their community to create a home that resonates with their present life—a dwelling to which their adult children will return to, rather than reside. 🏡

