

# WILD WEST

DESIGNER LESLIE PARRAGUIRRE CREATES A HOME WITH ROOM TO GROW

**Parting ways can be quite sorrowful for interior designer Leslie Parraguirre, owner of the local firm Colours, Inc., who says that the most challenging part of designing a home is closing the door on a finished project. "The truth is, if you really do your job well, you want to own it," she says. "After we finish a project, we actually have a 'letting go' party—we jokingly call it a labor of love, and it is."**

It's been two-and-a-half years since J.T. and Jodi Moran were discussing ideas for their 7,600 square-foot home. "We wanted a comfortable area, prime for entertaining, yet conducive to raising a family," says J.T. Planning and communication were key to the success of the design, as the couple had a baby on the way and J.T.'s schedule as an attorney keeps him busy. So they turned to Parraguirre, who J.T. has known for years. "I wouldn't build a birdhouse without Leslie's assistance—she's the best."

Fortunately, Parraguirre is accustomed to taking on busy clients whose sole focus can't always be on the project itself. "We're not a design firm for everyone," she says. "We're a design firm for the busy professional who wants a home done in its totality and finished to their vision. They don't have time to do it. They don't want 17 choices, they want the best one."

Inspired by the breathtaking view from the back of their home, the plan for the Morans involved a warm,



MORAN RESIDENCE

DESIGNER: LESLIE PARRAGUIRRE

ARCHITECT: QUINN BOESENECKER OF PINNACLE ARCHITECTURAL STUDIO

STORY: CYNTHIA L. GAGNON

PHOTOGRAPHY: FRANCIS GEORGE

7,600 SQ FT





friendly family home that offers an indoor/outdoor feeling. The house sits inside Summerlin's Red Rock Country Club, directly adjacent to the golf course and the mountain, so the goal was to incorporate the view into the design of the home without bringing in too much of the Nevada heat. The door and window system became key in developing this concept, but it also became an architectural challenge.

"That particular door system required a thick stacking section, so we had to design appropriate drapery pockets into the ceiling where solar shades could be hidden," says Parraguirre. "Because the back of the house faces west, motorized solar shades were necessary." When the shades are up, they're hidden and the view is maximized—when they're down, they protect the furniture and help keep the house cool.

To further blend the interior with the exterior, all of the stone and brick that appears on the outside of the home also wraps around into the interior. The antique limestone flooring, which starts in the courtyard and extends into the interior of the house right out to the back patio, was imported from France and hand-hewed by Brian's Masterpiece, Inc., of Las Vegas.

As for the style of the home, the Morans were inspired by Tuscan farmhouse living, which they wanted to personalize with their growing collection of modern art, such as a colorful Rauschenberg in the main living area. Parraguirre felt it was a great opportunity to meld two different styles together to create a one-of-a-kind design.

"It wasn't hard-line Tuscan," she says, "because if you saturate the look it becomes almost Disneyland Tuscan. We like to stay eclectic, so we mixed styles with a variety

**Opposite:** Hand-hewed antique limestone flooring from Source Francaise and a console table from Formations mix perfectly with a print by American pop artist Robert Rauschenberg. **Above:** Leslie Parraguirre incorporated the owners' private art collection into her plans for the home's modified Tuscan theme. The leather sofa is by Rossi for Randolph & Hein and the upholstered wing chairs are by Westwood Furniture. See Resources.



of lines from clean to more hand-painted and hand-carved, so it would have longevity."

**Discovering how people live is perhaps Parraguirre's favorite part of the job, stressing that designers have to be willing to work for the client.** She remembers attending a seminar where a famous designer said that to her, dogs and children were unnecessary accessories. "I always laugh at that because I have two girls, a potbellied pig, two dogs, a tortoise, birds—that's really how people live." Staying true to her word, Parraguirre designed the Morans' living spaces around a growing family.

"When the Morans came to us, we knew there

was a baby on the way, so we really took that into consideration," she says. "When you're designing for a family, it's critical to know everything about how they'll live, to make their environments function in their own way, so that they don't feel like they can't let the kids or the dog into a certain room."

The designer used distressed woods for much of the furniture, a style that's ideal for children because any additional imperfections or nicks only add character. The palette includes shades of green and orange, reminiscent of nature, which sets a tranquil mood for the family to relax in. And then there's the baby room, which is done in a Western theme.

**Below:** The cozy farmhouse kitchen features stone from Nevada Stone and Tile and a metal hood, custom designed by Colours, Inc., over the Viking stove. **Opposite:** The chairs around the dining room table are by Lilly Jack and the iron chandelier is by Originals 22. **See Resources.**







**Above:** A stone walkway leads to the master bathroom, with tile from Walker Zanger providing a tranquil backdrop for unique fixtures by Waterworks. **Opposite:** The master bedroom features crisp linens from Pratesi. See Resources.

"We love our son's bedroom, which is done in a cowboy-and-Indian theme—the Wild West," says J.T., adding that the décor was inspired by his late grandfather, John Moran, who was the sheriff of Clark County for 12 years. "We all say, 'There's a new sheriff in town—Maxwell John Moran!'"

**As with all of Parraguirre's undertakings, her labor of love will soon come to an end.** Nevertheless, the designer says one thing she wouldn't mind taking home with her would be the unforgettable backdrop, one that never required her hand in achieving its look.

"It's amazing, the way the back of this home interfaces with the desert mountains," she says. "As a Las Vegas native, I never anticipated the beauty of a home situated so close to the mountains. The sunsets are really quite spectacular." ❖







Above: The Western-themed child's room features a customized teepee by Auntie Barbara's Kids in Beverly Hills over the "mother's bed," an idea from Parraguirre that allows a mother to sleep in their child's room when they're ill. Left: The colorful playroom has another teepee, this one from Pottery Barn Kids, perfect for snuggling up for story time, and a palette of primary colors for inspiring creativity. See Resources.