



Cool & Classic

AN OUTDATED RANCH HOME BECOMES
A STUDY IN TIMELESS DESIGN

TEXT BY SUSAN REGAN ■ PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTIAAN BLOK

Removing an existing coat closet opened up the foyer, creating a welcoming entry. A bamboo chair complements a unique floor-to-ceiling lamp (one of a pair) crafted from an old ship's foundry mold; the finial is an antique link from an anchor chain. The entry door is constructed of pine siding with a metal band and "window" frame.





Before: A 1960s Ranch with shag carpeting, closed-in boxy rooms, a flagstone-covered fireplace wall, and tired-looking cabinetry and fixtures.

After: An up-to-date home with an open floor plan, comfortable furnishings and a classic style achieved with natural materials and a neutral palette.

Two years ago, interior designer Caroline Tyler DeCesare, Allied Member ASID, began a remodeling project for this Paradise Valley, Arizona, residence with builder Ron Barney. "The goal was to not lose sight of the fact that it is a Ranch house, but make it more timeless and classic," explains DeCesare. The design team, in collaboration with the homeowner, achieved this by removing walls to expand and open up rooms, and repeating elements and materials throughout to establish a cohesive flow. A cool color palette was utilized to complement Arizona's warm, sunny climate.

"When designing an interior that is very neutral, it is important to use varying textures so the space doesn't feel flat," DeCesare says. She points to the multipurpose kitchen/family room—which was created by removing a wall—as an example. Here, smooth white kitchen cabinetry with opaque-glass fronts is offset by black granite countertops with a brushed finish; the granite also forms the nearby family room's fireplace surround. White beadboard on the fireplace wall, gray-washed Belgian oak flooring that resembles driftwood, and seating upholstered in soft linen add to the play of textures.

"This project was a great opportunity to create a very casual, comfortable yet sophisticated environment that still respects the style and site of the home," comments the designer. Calling the residence a "modernized Ranch," she explains that close attention to detail was an important element in its redesign. By using woven and textured wallpapers, crown molding, and door and window casings, she established depth and dimension while still honoring the home's architectural style. Select Contemporary, Transitional and Asian furnishings accentuate its eclectic nature.

The designer says the essence of the project was to create a home that would transcend trends. "The definition of classic design, for me, is something that feels both Traditional and Modern," concludes DeCesare. "Classic, timeless interiors are rooms we never tire of. They are spaces that we can really live in and that can adapt and change with the transitions in our lives." □

Above: This cozy corner of the family room offers a spot to kick back and enjoy a game of chess. Designer Caroline Tyler DeCesare used beadboard siding on the walls to add textural interest. The refurbished chairs are upholstered in linen and accented with French tape and nailhead trim; the table has a zinc top. **Opposite:** Asian furnishings are part of the home's eclectic mix. Here, a repurposed and refinished Chinese chest, a pair of Buddha heads and two etchings from China are showcased against the foyer's grasscloth-covered walls.



This page and opposite: The expanded kitchen/family room has plenty of space for entertaining or relaxation. Initially, a wall separated the rooms, making each feel closed-in. Now the area is flooded with natural light from two large sliding glass doors. A neutral color scheme underscores the airy feel. Fitted with porthole windows, the kitchen's swinging doors provide access to the dining room. Pendant lights over the dining island and game table are suspended by ropes, offering a note of whimsy.







This page: A grouping of six graphic prints in simple silver frames decorates the wall above a guest room's streamlined desk. **Opposite top:** "This room is a great example of how fun and whimsical accessories can add flavor to basic furnishings," says Caroline Tyler DeCesare of this guest bedroom. Here, she freshens the space with hints of green and cream found in table lamps, draperies, an Ikat pillow and a bench upholstered in a playful zebra print. "These little touches lend personality without overwhelming the room," she comments. **Opposite bottom:** For this guest room, DeCesare used white bedding to create a soothing feel. Walls are painted a light shade of gray, a color the designer calls the new black.





Above: A taupe palette defines the elegant master bedroom. The designer used a wallpaper that appears to have a silver-leaf finish, to achieve "layer and depth." She explains that utilizing wallcoverings in such a way is an affordable technique for establishing visual interest. Bedding is silk, and the curvy custom headboard is upholstered in leather. **Right:** Low-hanging glass pendants flank a Venetian mirror in the powder room. The furniture-style vanity has a marble top. Walls are clad in a woven wallcovering. **Opposite:** The remodeled master bath features a spa-like ambience, with a slipper tub and twin vanities. Layered Roman shades dress the window, and Calcutta marble tile is used for flooring and wainscoting.

See Sources.



WHAT'S
BIG
NOW

- Neutral color palette
- Transitional sense of style
- Ranch redo
- Open floor plan

