

A mesh figure
the owners
brought from
Europe rests
on an ottoman
by the living
room fireplace.



CHEN + SUCHART STUDIO
PEELS BACK A PARADISE VALLEY
HOUSE TO SHOWCASE A SPARE,
EUROPEAN AESTHETIC

BY NORA BURBA TRULSSON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BY WINQUIST PHOTOGRAPHY



Since launching Scottsdale-based Chen + Suchart Studio in the early 2000s, the husband-and-wife team of Thamarit “Tommy” Suchart and Patricia Chen Suchart have become known for their restrained, minimalistic approach to architecture and design. These architectural collaborators have won numerous awards for their residential projects created to respond to client and site.

Their aesthetic put them on the radar for a Swiss couple—parents to two school-age children—who relocated to Arizona. “They bought a 6,500-square-foot house in Paradise Valley,” explains Tommy, “and asked us to help them with the interior design.”

The home, built in the late 1980s, was typical of its era, sporting a vaguely Santa Barbara-style exterior and an interior filled with details like whitewashed woods, brass fixtures, cultured marble countertops and busy wallpaper. Initially, Suchart recalls, there was discussion about updating the home’s exterior as well. “We decided to leave the exterior alone—it is what it is,” he says. “It was an unreasonable amount of money to make the house into something else, and, even if you changed a few things, like the front door, it was a bit like unraveling a sweater.”

Instead, the architectural team concentrated their efforts on the interior, following the owners’ contemporary, minimalist tastes and fearless approach to color. “We wanted to reduce the clutter in the house and make things quiet,” Suchart notes, “yet introduce pops of color through art and furniture.”





In the family room, a monolithic free-standing cabinet offers storage and frames the steel fireplace, while comfortable modern furnishings add pops of color. Opposite page, from top: The kitchen's sleek cabinetry keeps everything clutter-free; the reconfigured master bathroom includes a floating dual vanity and walk-in glass shower.



Working with builder Joby Dutton, the Sucharts stripped away old flooring, cabinetry, lighting and wallcoverings to create a serene, white backdrop, warmed by new gray-hued oak and porcelain tile flooring. The basic floor plan of the four-bedroom house was kept intact, but an opening between the kitchen and family room was enlarged, and the master bathroom was reconfigured to create a more functional, open space.

The Sucharts added numerous custom architectural touches throughout the house, such as a free-standing sculptural cabinet in the family room that does triple duty, framing the new hot-rolled steel fireplace, providing storage and screening the doorways to the two children's bedrooms. In the kitchen, a cantilevered walnut bar top on the island adds a touch of warmth, while, in the master bathroom, a floating stone-clad vanity screens the WC and a seated makeup vanity.

When it came to furnishings, the designers incorporated the art and lighting that the owners had brought with them from Switzerland and opted for a few bold new pieces in each room. In the living room, two white Italian sectionals flank the new steel fireplace and rest on an acid green modular area rug. In the family room, more Italian furnishings in the form of a low-profile turquoise sectional and a purple love seat add peacock hues to a calming backdrop. Even the kitchen, with its serene white and gray cabinetry, has subtle pops of red thanks to the upholstery of the chairs and the angled form of the bar stools.

The completed interior has proven to be a functional, soothing space for family living, one that brings a touch of European modernism to the desert. "Before, the whole interior seemed like it was constantly screaming, filled with too many shapes and materials," reflects Suchart. "Now, it's reductive, calming and quiet." ■





Painted white, the entry hall provides a backdrop for art and custom millwork. Opposite page, from top: A new steel fireplace creates a focal point for the living room, which is underscored by a modular rug; custom shelving and a floating credenza house the owners' books in the study.



DESIGN DETAILS

RESIDENCE

Single-family home

LOCATION

Paradise Valley

ARCHITECTURE & INTERIOR DESIGN

Patricia Chen Suchart
and Thamarit Suchart
Chen + Suchart Studio
chensuchartstudio.com

BUILDER

Joby Dutton
Verge Design: Build
602.334.5569

CUSTOM CABINETRY & MILLWORK

Chris Madsen
CMCW
602.882.3067

RESOURCES

DEKTON

Kitchen and bath countertops
dektion.com

FLOS

Arco living room floor lamp
usa.flos.com

HAFELE

Cabinetry hardware
hafele.com

HANSGROHE

Shower fixtures
hansgrohe-usa.com

GAGGENAU

Ovens, cooktop and hood
gaggenau.com

MARAZZI

Porcelain tile flooring
marazziusa.com

MDF ITALIA

Kitchen table and chairs, and office table, sourced through Space Bazaar
spacecollaborative.com;
mdfitalia.com

PAOLA LENTI

Family room furniture, living room furniture and rug, sourced through Space Bazaar
spacecollaborative.com; paolalenti.it

SUB-ZERO, WOLF, AND COVE

Refrigerator, freezer and wine cooler
subzero-wolf.com