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MINIMALIST MAKEOVER

A DRAMATIC REMODEL
TRANSFORMS AN ARCADIA
LITE RANCH HOUSE INTO A
CHIC STREAMLINED ABODE.

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COLWELL SHELOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE





Architect Darren Petrucci brought a modernist sensibility to a family's Arcadia Lite ranch house. Preserving the long low profile, he replaced walls with glass to bring in light and views, including through the etched-glass pivot entry door from Coyote Glass. New white stucco walls by Rios Plastering serve as a backdrop for Arizona's dynamic shadow play.

When architect Darren Petrucci was asked to make some additions to a growing family's 1950s ranch house in Arcadia Lite, he intended to design a three-car garage, expand the master bedroom and add a children's room. But, as is often the case during demolition, structural problems came to light. "The roof was no good," he recalls. "Major beams were compromised, and supports were missing. We had to replace it." The architect called the owners, Colin and Jodi Jones, and suggested: Why not transform the residence with a gabled roof instead?

One thing led to another, and soon the original construction plans were recalibrated for a gut renovation. Together with builder Kent Wagner, interior designer Lesley G. Elliott and landscape architect Michele Shelor, the team devised a strategy for a modern open-plan house with large glass windows that is comfortable for family living. "Three-quarters of the structure is new," Petrucci notes.

Thanks to the architect's idea for a gabled roof, the home's great room now has more height and drama. Unlike the previous roof, this one lacks eaves, making the walls flush with it. Recessed gutters also keep the structure's profile clean. "We reduced the form of the building to basic house typology—vertical walls and a



gabled roof—but it still has a pitched roof,” Petrucci says. “It appeals to people who aren’t normally drawn to modern styles.”

The architect finished the exterior walls with white stucco, which creates a clean look ideal for Arizona’s intense sunlight. “The desert has the best light in the world,” Petrucci says. “The super-smooth white stucco helps abstract the form of the house, capture shadows and reflect sunlight.” To maintain visual connectivity, he continued the white inside and made the property’s courtyard walls—like those off the master suite—the same height as interior ones. Outfitted with windows, “the courtyards become like exterior rooms,” the architect explains. “They help make the house feel bigger than it is.” There’s a similar effect at the rear of the abode,

where a portion of the roof pulls away from the structure, exposing a slice of sky. “There’s a more ambiguous line between the indoors and outdoors,” Petrucci says.

Inside, the architect used several strategies to create bright and open interiors, including softening the angles of the great room’s ceiling. “When two planes come to a point, one side is light, and one is dark,” he explains. “When you curve the point, it carries the light, so there’s no seam.” The front and rear façades were also opened up with floor-to-ceiling glass, and even the pivoting front door allows in sunshine through its etched-glass surface.

In this new framework, Elliott worked in a largely taupe-and-gray color scheme, with occasional pops of vibrant nature hues. “The couple wanted a clean aesthetic to complement the architecture,” says the interior designer,

Throughout the home, interior designer Lesley G. Elliott used many of the owners’ existing furniture, including the dining area’s Copenhagen table, Crate & Barrel chairs and Capiz pendant. The space looks out to the entry courtyard, which Petrucci enclosed with white stucco walls for privacy.

Next to the kitchen, which is the heart of the great room, Elliott arranged a Lee Industries sofa as part of a cozy seating area. Behind it, Noir’s QS Nelson console displays Jamie Young’s Dimple jug and vase from Bungalow. At the far end, a wall leading to the master suite is dressed in Gray Wonder by Dunn-Edwards Paints.





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—DARREN PETRUCCI

Opposite: A custom Natuzzi Italia sofa acquired through Laura Kehoe Design is accented with West Elm pillows. The sitting area opens on to the back garden, where the original pool was redone with a pebble sheen and baja shelf.

Below: Bringing continuity to the open-living plan, Petrucci fabricated the kitchen cabinets in stainless steel to match the Sub-Zero refrigerator and Monogram oven and microwave. “The entire unit is steel, and no single object stands out,” he notes. Design Within Reach barstools complement the island, which has a Caesarstone countertop.





who incorporated much of the clients' existing furniture and reupholstered pieces in durable outdoor fabrics. "Jodi's favorite colors are blues and greens, which work nicely with the views from the windows." She subtly incorporated the hues through occasional art and decor as well as items like a silk Surya rug in shades of watery blue, which sits beneath the master bedroom's tailored Bernhardt bed, upholstered in sandy velvet.

Off the master bathroom, an exterior living space outfitted with furniture and a shower serves as a "view courtyard," Shelor describes. "It's really lush and shady, so we planted evergreen iris, rosemary and creeping-fig vines. Colin liked the idea of setting a chair there

and reading a book." This isn't the only place for the homeowners to relax: The landscape architect echoed the approach throughout all the courtyards, using indigenous plantings to create sustainable gardens where the family spends much of their time.

Undergoing a bigger renovation than planned, just as a baby was on the way, turns out to have been fortuitous for the Joneses. Now with two young children, Colin and Jodi consider their house an ideal place to raise a family, especially because of its openness. "It's great having visuals on the children's play area," Colin says. "And in the evenings, my wife and I enjoy spending time with the boys in the living area. We love watching them grow up here." **L**

Above: Landscape architect Michele Shelor planned the vegetation, such as the creeping-fig vines that cover a wall of the house. Terraced planters act as visual boundaries that contribute to shaping the space.

Opposite: Beneath a covered patio, Teak Warehouse chairs are arranged in front of a fireplace, where smoke rises through an artful opening in the roof.



A courtyard continues off the master bedroom suite. In the bedroom, a bamboo-silk Surya rug in watery tones unifies the space, pulling in the pale blue accent wall as well as the RH linens on the velvet-upholstered Bernhardt bed. The marine-blue triple-gourd lamp is by Robert Abbey.