



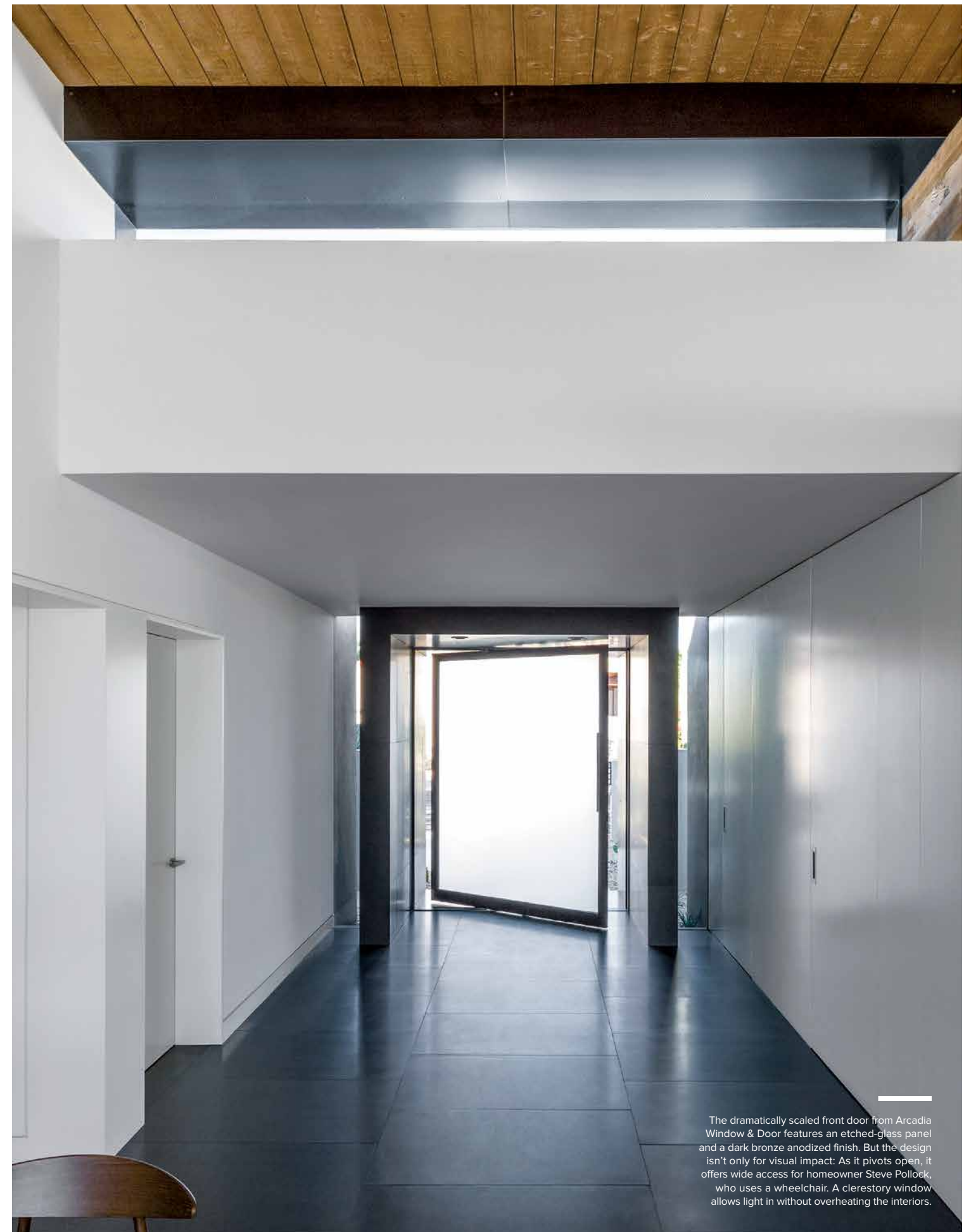
The first things guests notice when approaching this Sonoran Desert home are the boxy basalt protrusions jutting from the exterior's neat white walls. As they wander past the miniature cactus gardens, they enter the home and discover the warm wood ceilings overhead. And when they walk around the spaces, they take in a striking kitchen wall of stacked walnut stained in three shades, sleek modern furnishings and a drop-dead gorgeous view of Camelback Mountain.

What they don't see, however, are the subtle adaptations made for the home's resident, 50-year-old entrepreneurial investor Steve Pollock, who has been using a wheelchair for the past 30 years. "My philosophy of being in the chair and also being a visual person is that we should come up with solutions one wouldn't notice," he explains about his vision for his part-time residence in Scottsdale's Hilton Casitas neighborhood. "You should have no idea it's accessible for someone in a chair."

Steve was rigorous about this visual effect, says Robert Moric of Bulthaup Scottsdale, who designed that eye-catching kitchen. "He didn't want his condition to drive the aesthetics or compromise them in any way," Moric says. The sentiment was echoed by architect Darren Petrucci, who was charged with giving the 1973 structure a 21st-century makeover. "It's really the way we should build," he says. "It's not just for people with some sort of disability; the elderly, too, can benefit."

Petrucci had other equally important considerations to address. The house Steve had purchased is commonly known as a "patio home," the term for a residence where the front yard and back patio are the same width as the house. "What's ironic about most patio homes is that the patio is typically not well-integrated into the house," Petrucci says. Case in point: The back façade of Steve's home was a solid wall of stucco with a door and a window, minimizing exposure to the landscape.

Architect Darren Petrucci was tasked with renovating a 1970s residence in Scottsdale's Hilton Casitas neighborhood. Outside, the sculptural desert plantings by landscape architect Michele Shelor counter the home's angularity.



The dramatically scaled front door from Arcadia Window & Door features an etched-glass panel and a dark bronze anodized finish. But the design isn't only for visual impact: As it pivots open, it offers wide access for homeowner Steve Pollock, who uses a wheelchair. A clerestory window allows light in without overheating the interiors.