

Arizona Foothills custom homes

THE ULTIMATE RESOURCE FOR BUILDING THE HOME OF YOUR DREAMS



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ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

BY ANNE WEST / PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK BOISCLAIR

HAVE YOU ALWAYS ADMIRERD THE SLEEK LINES OF MODERN HOMES? DID YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH SANTA BARBARA'S CHARMING ARCHITECTURE THE LAST TIME YOU VISITED? WE TALKED TO LEADING ARCHITECTS TO BRING YOU THE STORY OF HOW SEVERAL ARCHITECTURAL STYLES ORIGINATED AND WHICH FORM, SPACE AND MATERIALS BEST CHARACTERIZE THEM. MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE'VE INCLUDED STUNNING EXAMPLES OF EACH STYLE DONE RIGHT.

MODERN

The desert modern house has a strong connection to its place, history and climate, according to architect Will Bruder, whose designs, including Phoenix's Burton Barr Central Library, are nationally and internationally recognized. Modernism has more relevance here than any other style in the Valley, he says.

Modern architecture began as an attempt to use materials and

methods that would allow comfortable living in a particular climate—in this case, the desert before the advent of air-conditioning. Even in the mid-19th century, simple structures were dealing with the climate in modernist ways, Bruder says, with deep porches and high ceilings. The modern home combines pragmatism with simplicity. A nine- to 12-ft. ceiling is logical and gracious—it allows the heat to rise, keeping the floor cool.

The Arizona Biltmore and Frank Lloyd Wright's structures at Taliesin West—with ideas of indoor/outdoor living, canvas roofs and sheltered sleeping porches—carried on the Modernist style. These early examples of modern architecture are role models for today's modernism, according to Bruder, who characterizes the style as "simple structures, anchored to the landscape, both massive and light." The modern style continued to grow with those who studied with Wright and with those involved in the Case Study House Program,

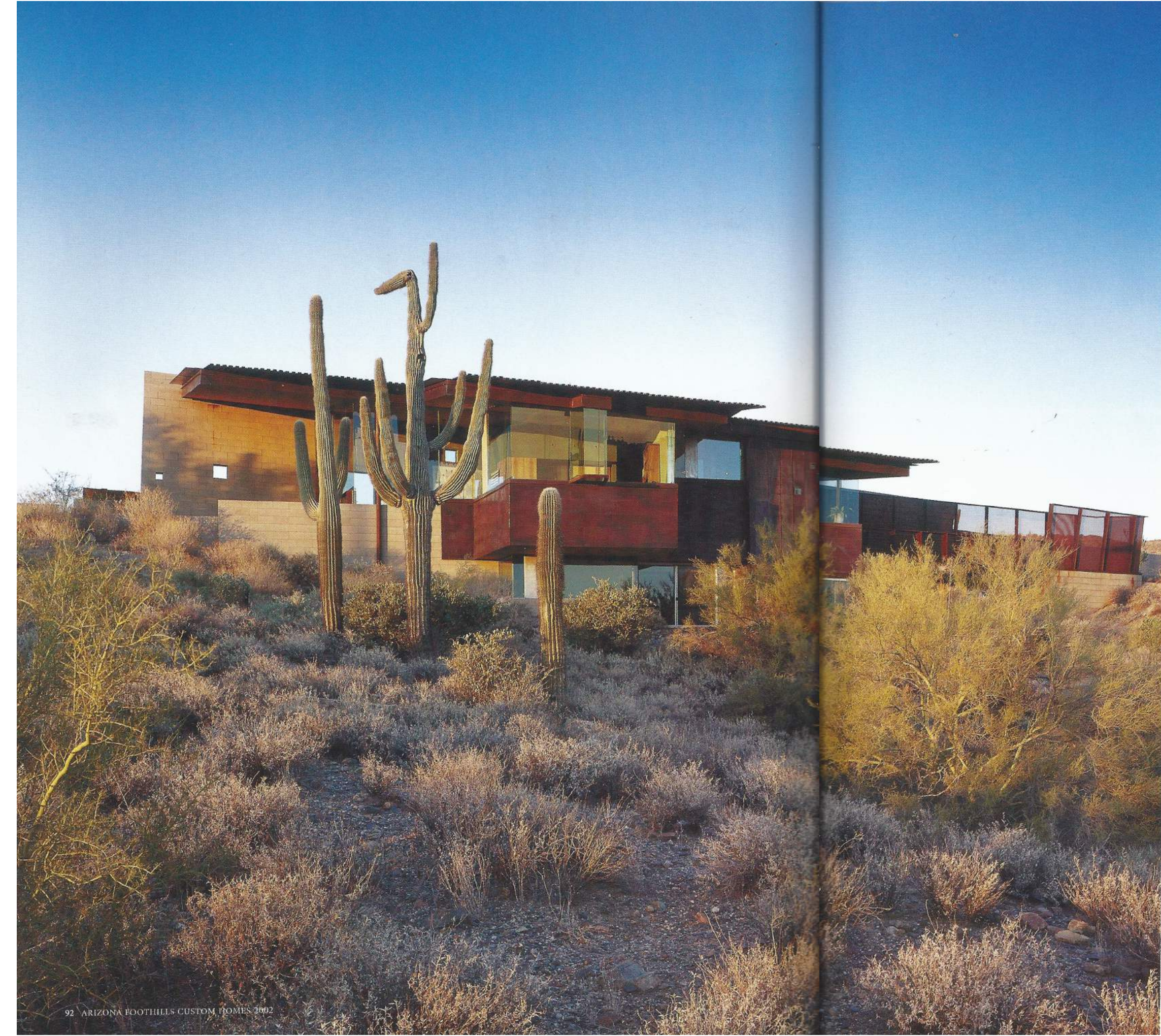
MODERN

ARCHITECT: Will Bruder

HOMEOWNERS, BUILDERS AND INTERIOR DESIGNERS: Carol and Bill Byrne

SQUARE FOOTAGE: About 2,900





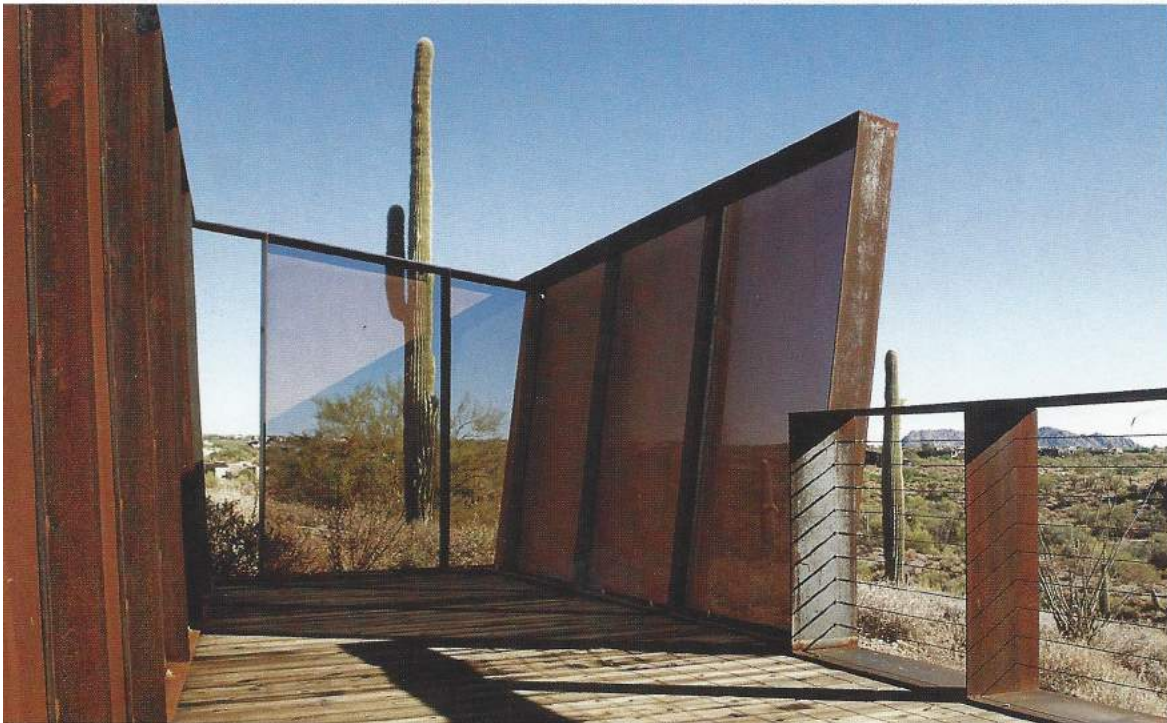
which heavily affected the Modernist movement here, he says.

The modern home has a tendency to strive for a psychological coolness, Bruder says, in terms of neutral colors like gray. Modern architecture is very conscious of the surface textures of walls, shadow patterns and reliefs that animate the home. Any material can be used in a modern home—from traditional woods to metals, masonry walls and technological materials.

“THE MODERN HOUSE IS BRAVE AND
CURIOUS IN TERMS OF USING LIGHT
AS POETRY TO GIVE MEANING AND
RICHNESS TO THE OCCUPANTS.”

Modernist architecture attempts to be honest to the technology of the time, Bruder says. For example, being energy-efficient is important—air-conditioning isn’t the answer, he says, it’s an assistance. Perhaps the main characteristics of modern homes are simplicity and a lack of ornamentation.

Scale, in terms of the landscape and horizon, is vital. “The modern house is intrigued with capturing the aesthetic quality of the sun and the light of this place and using it to be part of this experience,” Bruder says. “It is brave and curious in terms of using light as poetry, to give meaning and richness to the occupants.”



MODERN MAGIC *This home's materials and architectural forms work exceptionally well with its surrounding desert landscape.*

