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Big Italy

GRUPPO MONDADORI





Sound stone

In the Sonoran Desert of Arizona, a house with organic lines comes back to life thanks to a coherent project of interior design that makes exclusive natural stones and Italian finishes of the highest quality become the protagonists of a new narrative

IF “MAKING ARCHITECTURE MEANS GRANTING CHARACTER,” as the great Jean Nouvel has always said, and if the pursuit of beauty is a primordial necessity for all of us, the vectors activated by the project for the interiors of this villa immersed in the evocative landscape of the Sonoran Desert in Arizona bring a brave new world of sensory experience and natural focus to the options already inscribed in the exclusive lifestyle of the zone. Villa Solace, as its name recites, was built in the 1980s together with the Desert Mountain luxury residential complex of which it is a part. The house has now benefitted from a complete restyling of its 650 square meters carried out by Jeffrey Florentine, CEO and founder of JSF Design Inc., one of the most prestigious interior design studios of the Scottsdale area. Further characteristics of quality and rarity bring a new tailor-made allure to the curved trajectories of the organic architecture, in a constant relationship with local nature, the colors of the rocky terrain and native vegetation that can stand up to remarkable temperature shifts, with solitary and silent panoramas that extend as far as Cave Creek. “Our design path began precisely by taking inspiration from the distinctive architecture of the house,” →

Exterior view of the architecture of Villa Solace, immersed with its curved lines of organic origin in the landscape of the Sonoran Desert of Arizona. Photo courtesy of JSF Design

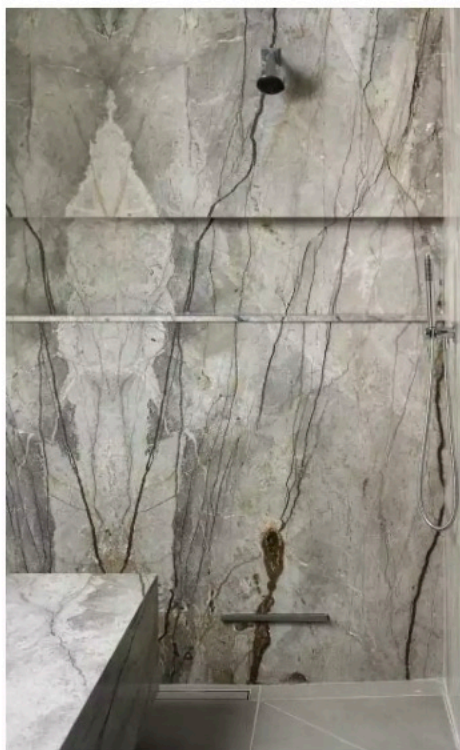


→ the American interior designer explains. “Its gentle curves and elegant composure called for a refined, sophisticated palette. Shades of brown, white, gold and taupe, which are the colors of the Sonoran Desert, have been inserted in the interiors, and the natural stones by Antolini featuring these hues have formed the basis for much of our design.” In effect, using the materials from the Italian company founded in Verona in 1956, Jeffrey Florentine has enacted a major operation of personalization of the individual rooms organized on a single level, the daytime zones in direct connection to each other, the terrace and the swimming pool, the nocturnal islands of the owners and their guests, with associated bathrooms, with the exception of the dressing room dedicated to the women’s wardrobe which is spread over two levels connected by a spiral staircase. The reinterpretation of the genius loci is reflected in the design of an open layout in which the fluidity and continuity of the spaces, indoors and outdoors, are emphasized precisely by the tactile effects of the very sophisticated natural materials used for the facings and finishes. The stone varieties have become the new protagonists of the narrative, on a par with light, the symbol of purity, and the intelligence of the hands, conveying the image of an idealized Prairie House. “Timeless. The range of materials and colors of the house is very soft, relaxing, comforting. It lowers the heart rate and spreads a sense of calm,” Jeffrey Florentine remarks. While the wood flooring is in European oak, a charismatic slightly luminous stone, Italian Paonazzo marble, stands out on the counters and walls of the kitchen, as an artistic touch in its own right. “I can’t tell you how beautiful this stone is – you have to see it and touch it yourself. It con-

Shades of brown, white, gold and taupe, the colors of the Sonoran Desert, are echoed in the elegance of the natural stones that personalize the spaces

View of the kitchen, the heart of the house, in direct communication with the living area. The space features a central island in Italian Paonazzo marble, made with great mastery by Antolini.

The tactile Lether finish enhances the material sensation, in dialogue with the warm hues of the hand-brushed furnishings, the faucets in antique-finish brass and the European oak flooring.



Above, the master suite boasts a corner fireplace in Striato Tortora marble with matched grain. Left, detail of the bathroom with the shower in Silver Roots, a marble with gray tones rendered vibrant by darker veins. All natural stones by Antolini. Photos courtesy of JSF Design

tains veins in a gold color, with shadings of rust. Magnificent! It is from the Apuan Alps, from a quarry from which it was extracted to be used in the Vatican.” Not by chance, the large convivial kitchen has been designed for gatherings of family and friends, as the heart of the dwelling. The impressive central island aptly embodies the quality of the project: composed of four distinct slabs of marble, it looks like a single, seamless surface. The area for outdoor cooking, in visual and aesthetic tune with the kitchen, repeats the soft hues through the use of Cristallo Lumix, a natural quartz whose greater hardness makes it perfect for outdoor applications. The master bathroom, in dialogue with the outside by means of a large window, is also enhanced by the striking presence of natural stones. Here the setting is dominated by the narrative potential of the hypnotic Silver Roots, a marble variety with pale gray hues, rendered vibrant by dark veins. This material clads the top of the vanity dresser and the walls of the large shower with monolithic central seating.

The fireplace that adorns the master suite with its book matched pattern is a true catalyst, with reminders of the classic image of a hearth. As the designer explains, “we wanted this fireplace to be the focal point of the room. When we think about fire and a hearth, we think about movement, warmth, the color variations of the flames. These perceptions are reflected in the choice of the stone. With its brown tones crossed by delicate white veins, the Striato Tortora marble proved to be the ideal solution, honed through careful selection of the cutting and the matching of the slabs, which sublimate the incomparable details.” **Antonella Boisi**