

Ruth West and her husband love Colorado's spectacular Durango and Scottsdale's Don & Charlie's. The couple has lived in the Rocky Mountain city for 36 years and, for 20 of those years, has also owned a desert-getaway home in Mountain Shadows Estates, adjacent to the long-time Paradise Valley resort hotel off Lincoln Drive. >



# ON THE WATERFRONT

Text by David M. Brown | Photos by Scott Sandler  
Decorated by Friedman and Shields Fine Interior Design

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"We started coming to spring training when we moved to Durango," Ruth recalled. When the landmark hotel closed a number of years ago, they wanted to move to an equally luxe area nearby, so their Realtor showed them a number of properties, including stand-out high-rises such as the Esplanade in the Biltmore area.

"For several years, we heard rumors about a possible development by Fashion Square, but nothing definitive," she added. When Valley developers Opus West Corporation and Geoffrey H. Edmunds and Associates announced plans to build the Scottsdale Waterfront Residences, they placed their names on the reserve list for the \$200-million mixed-used campus.

Before their building was finished (two towers with 198 condominiums were built between January 2005 and mid 2007), they purchased their approximately 2,000-square-foot home, with two bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths and upper-story views into downtown Scottsdale and out to the mountains.

The 13-story buildings sit on 2.25 acres adjacent to the Arizona Canal on the southwest corner of Scottsdale and Camelback roads. Since moving in about six months ago, the Wests have enjoyed the luxuries of urban community living: a secured lobby with 24-hour concierge service; a residents' club with a gourmet exhibition kitchen, private dining rooms and entertainment areas; a rooftop pool and spa; fitness and business centers; and a climate-controlled wine cave.

The mixed-use Waterfront campus includes 200,000 square feet of two- and three-story buildings with restaurants, retailers, small office condominiums and a 600-space underground public parking garage.

As a result, the Wests enjoy the vibrancy of downtown, including the cultural activities at the Scottsdale Center for the Arts and the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art. "We love being able to walk to the restaurants, Scottsdale Stadium, shops and galleries," Ruth said. "In Durango, we live in the country, too far to walk anywhere. This area of Scottsdale still has an old friendly feel about it."

The Waterfront District also serves up "Cheers" spirit: "We can walk into Don & Charlie's, and Shelley the bartender will remember not only our names but what we drink – even if we've been gone for a while. It's the same with other restaurants like Wildfish and City Hall." ▸





The home offers spaciousness for entertaining, including a fireplace in the living room and an adjacent kitchen with a serving/eating counter. Floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors are view walls to the beauty of the surrounding urban life and desert hills. The developers also provided detailed moldings and millwork, solid wood doors and Kohler bath fixtures.

But the Wests' home didn't feel right: Their prestigious condo needed spice, color, punch and personalization. A friend in Durango recommended Jan Friedman, of Scottsdale's award-winning Friedman and Shields interior design firm. Friedman had completed the interior design for her home, and they were very happy with the results.

Friedman, ASID, CID, and Shields, ASID, have worked together for 15 years, in the Valley and in California. "We

find that the synergy between us leads to greater creativity and outcome," said Friedman. "We just talk it out and talk it out until something feels right."

"Although it was move-in ready," recalled Shields of the home, "it still felt a bit raw and unfinished. They needed it to be a dynamic." Friedman added: "I saw potential – lots of it!"

Ruth began by letting Friedman and Shields know what she liked. "I sent pictures of Durango and our Denver home and then met with them," Ruth explained, noting that they had expected to move to Denver shortly after relocating to Durango, but that the move never occurred. At the same time, they purchased a loft in the historical LoDo area downtown and have kept it as a getaway.

"We wanted contemporary but comfortable – not a

show home," Ruth explained. The trio immediately jelled as a group with a shared goal: to transform spec-built space into spectacular space, to make the home theirs. "Our client was a delight to work with, very forthcoming about her needs, able to communicate her style preferences and excited about the prospects," Friedman said.

Then the three went shopping for basics: rugs, furniture, fabrics and some artwork. "Our client loves art with bold colors and a sense of movement," Friedman noted. "Fortunately, there's no shortage of artists in the Valley to fill her needs." Other pieces Ruth purchased in Durango.

Shields and Friedman added texture, color and minimalist style to the home. "We added various decorative tiles to create more visual interest, along with colorful canvases and metal pieces which now breathe life into the rooms," said Shields. Friedman added: "The overall impact is energizing, yet soothing and balanced. By playing the art, rugs and fabrics against such a neutral backdrop, we were able to achieve the effect our client wanted without overwhelming the space."

This impact begins in the foyer. From Scottsdale's well-known David E. Adler, the

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women acquired a silk Tibetan rug dominated by welcoming reds and yellows. On one wall is a series of six brightly colored paintings on metal by Valley artist Angellini, acquired from Phoenix Art Group, where the women also found other pieces for the home. Above this area is an S-shaped aluminum monorail light with five small spots, from Thingz in Scottsdale. To balance the contemporary elements, a natural-contour mesquite table showcases a steel sculpture, and a reclaimed wood mirror stands just outside the powder room.

Everyone loves this guest bath: It's worth going even if you don't need to go. To change the original vanilla space into a rainbow, the women created a wall treatment of black matte-finish tiles as well as a ledge to add depth. Through these tiles, they ran rows of thin colorful glass tiles. On the ledge, they rested three flute glasses that reflect in the staggered mirror treatment. Polished travertine flooring and custom lighting complete the transformation.

In the living room space, Shields and Friedman added materials to add depth, texture and luminescence. They transformed the fireplace, for example, from simply functional to a focal point. First, they created a travertine ledge and surround to match the floor, and, for contrast, added thin stainless steel stripe spacers. Brian Smith and Tom Smith of Phoenix-based North Country Homes Construction built the fireplace as well as completed other structural work, tile work and lighting in the condo.

The remainder of the room includes a round table with three pull-out ottomans, designed by Friedman and fabricated by Don Beams of Beams Design; he also created the room's two zebrawood-veneer end tables. Finally, on the wall opposite the sliding glass is a 10-foot-long black-stained bookcase, with many of Ruth's favorite reads.

The master bedroom and master bath are more sanctuary-like, with, as Ruth noted, a refreshing quiet. To create privacy between the rooms, for example, Friedman and Shields installed a sliding shoji screen from recycled paper, which offers functionality, beauty and an appropriate reference to Eastern Zen and calm.

Said Shields: "The entire space is now reflective of our client and feels like 'their' home." And, noted Friedman with a smile, "It's always a thrill when a client loves their home as much as we do." □

