

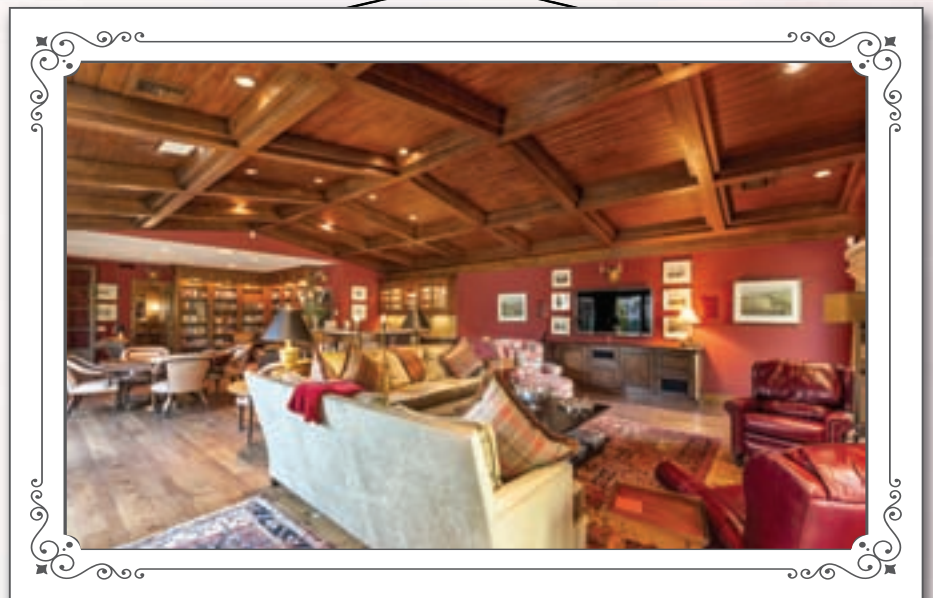
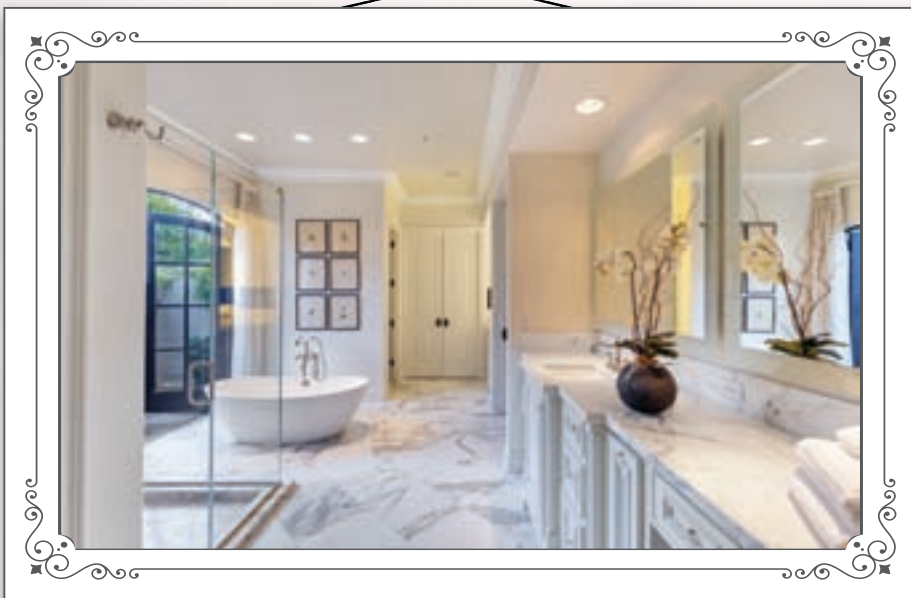
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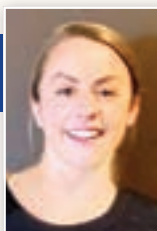
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EDITOR'S NOTE

This month, our cover image focuses on the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright; specifically, his winter home and school of architecture, Taliesin West, which recently became the second UNESCO World Heritage Site in Arizona, the first being the Grand Canyon.

UNESCO stands for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Its mission is to "build peace through international cooperation in education, the sciences and culture." In order for a site to be considered for the World Heritage title, it must meet at least one out of ten selection criteria.

The Arcadia neighborhood is familiar with Frank Lloyd Wright's work, as the house he built for his son, David, has been the topic of many a conversation in the recent past.

The David Wright house was featured in *Arcadia News* in May 2015. The piece discusses the history and its architectural design. We have also included Wright's other homes built in the Phoenix area; if you're ever out on a Sunday drive, you might just see one.

Please reach out to editor@arcadianews.com with feedback or story ideas. Until next time, thank you for reading *Arcadia News* and *Arcadia Home & Design*!

—mallory

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Get ready to host a holiday gathering that guests will remember forever. Two local catering companies share their experience and advice.

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Smart home technology has come a long way since "clap-on, clap-off." Integrated, voice-controlled systems are the concepts in the homes of the future.

Party Prep

Throw a holiday gathering with tips from the pros

By Cody Kennedy

With the holidays right around the corner, it's easy to become overwhelmed with the onslaught of shopping, attending celebrations and events, and hosting family and friends for your own holiday festivities.

To lessen the stress, Jennifer Russo of Jennifer's Catering and Christopher Collins of Arcadia Catering Company have provided some tips on planning and executing the perfect holiday party.

For starters, both Russo and Collins noted that the most important thing to remember when planning a holiday party is to ensure your guests have fun, but don't forget to enjoy yourself, too.

"There's nothing worse than preparing for days and then working the entire time in the kitchen," Russo said.

"Remember that holiday events are a time to enjoy with friends and family. Party planners often forget to take a moment and actually appreciate the event they created," Collins said.

Russo also offers several pointers for handling the logistics, such as prepping menus, icing down drinks early and setting up the bar, buffet and tables the day before.

"Another important thing, don't do anything you haven't done before. And if your family and friends offer to help, say yes," Russo said.

Premade appetizers and entrees serve as an ace-in-the-hole for seasoned party hosts and hostesses.

"I like going to gourmet stores like AJ's or Trader

Joe's and buying some of their premade dishes. You can put your twist on it by adding fresh herbs, a little lemon zest and a squeeze, fancy, flaky salt, et cetera. Then, you can transfer the item into one of your favorite serving dishes and call it your own," Russo said.

"Some of our favorite quick items at home are shaved Italian prosciutto with a semi-firm aged cheese or a creamy burrata paired with toasted French bread, olive oil and sea salt," Collins said.

When it comes to holiday parties, the quality of the food is the focus, but good planners also pay attention to the flow of guests and accessibility of beverages, appetizers and entrees throughout the event.

"The flow is very important," Russo said. "You don't want bottle-necking so make sure there's an easy in-and-out access to the bar and buffet. Anything you can do to set up the day before is super helpful. And then at go-time, if you need to switch anything around, you'll have the time to do so."

"A big part of our job is assisting the planner and offering insight on how the event can run more smoothly," Collins said. "I like to suggest offering large buffets with plenty of space so guests don't feel cramped and if necessary, running two sides of a buffet line to keep the 'flow' moving."

Collins also suggests designing the layout so appetizers are on one side of the party, main entrees on another and desserts in a place like the kitchen or living room.

"This allows the entire group to casually move throughout the venue," Collins said.

Light appetizers are a great item to enable guests to snack and mingle but not get full before dinner.

"For offerings that can quickly and beautifully be presented to guests, I would suggest 'boards.' Charcuterie and cheese, nuts and honey to smoked salmon and baked goods are quick and simple but delicious," Collins said.



Prime beef tenderloin with potatoes au gratin from Jennifer's Catering. PHOTO: JENNIFER'S CATERING



Charcuterie and
cheese board from
Arcadia Catering.

PHOTO: ARCADIA CATERING COMPANY

Since there are only a few weekends before Christmas, it's possible people will be attending multiple parties in one night and might not have room for a big meal, Russo said, adding that going in with a game plan and a small amount of preparation can pay off.

"The easiest dishes to serve at a party are those you can prepare ahead. Examples are antipasto platters, fine cheese and spreads platters, and dishes that reheat well and keep their quality, like lasagna or braised dishes," Russo said.

Examples of Russo's favorite dishes are mini beef wellingtons with a red wine reduction, creamy cheese and braised leek tarts, butter poached shrimp and polenta.

"These are fun, special dishes that you probably wouldn't have in July," Russo said.

We asked Jennifer and Chris for some quick tips for the home entertainer:

Jennifer's checklist

*From The Market Restaurant + Bar
and Jennifer's Catering & Events*

Things to include:

- Good salt
- Extra virgin olive oil
- Citrus
- Fresh herbs
- Candles
- Paper goods so you're not doing dishes all night
- ...and GREAT wine!

Christopher's checklist

*From Common Ground Culinary
and Arcadia Catering Company*

Things to remember:

- Ask friends and colleagues for referrals on catering options.
- Watch your budget. Focus on a modest selection of craft beer and west coast wines and leave out the expensive liquors. Include room on the budget for other items you may not have thought of: cleaning crews, valet, entertainment or decorations.
- Keep your menu manageable.
- For larger parties with a budget in mind, stick to a buffet and limit the selection. More options at the buffet line is not always better.

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DIY fun

Winter projects for the family

By Cody Kennedy

If you've ever thought about starting a do-it-yourself (DIY) project, but were a little leery, you're not alone. Luckily, this is the golden era of DIY – thanks to sites like Pinterest and a slew of DIY TV shows, more people are busting out pallets and glue guns.

For some tips and tricks from a local perspective, we sat down with area resident Maryal Carter, who is behind Love + Specs, a popular home-design/style blog.

What are your top guiding principles when tackling a DIY project?

First, DIY projects are so much more fun when you're not in a rush, so before I start, I love to remind myself that it's okay to take my time and do it right over a period of a few evenings, a weekend, a week... whatever it takes. When you have an idea or a project in mind, remember that it's okay to go slow and steady and really enjoy the process.

Second, there's no problem the internet can't solve, so don't be intimidated by the things you don't know and techniques you have yet to master. Chances are that whatever it is, someone else has mastered it or

“DIY is supposed to be fun, and part of that fun comes from the challenge of bringing a vision to life.”

Maryal Carter of Love + Specs.

Bucket list board

SUPPLIES:

- Wood frame
- Holiday wrapping paper
- Chalk markers
- Optional bows for decorating the frame

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Buy a 16x20 thin wood frame from any crafts shop.
2. Find your favorite holiday wrapping paper. (Make sure it's not too busy.)
3. Turn wrapping paper over and trace the frame so you can cut it to size.
4. Cut wrapping paper and place it face down into the frame against the glass.
5. Secure it all in place with the clasps on the back of the frame.
6. Use chalk markers to write out your bucket list.

Here are some ideas to put on your board:

- Make gingerbread cookies
- Decorate the house
- Have a holiday movie date night
- Go ice skating



overcome it and then talked about it on the internet, which has made DIY projects of all kinds so much more approachable for the average Joe. Part of the fun can be the opportunity to learn something new, even if that means recalibration or starting over to get it right.

Lastly, if you're thinking about taking on a bigger project, consider that you don't have to tackle it all alone to save money or alternatively, outsource it completely because you don't feel comfortable handling every task. If you're wanting to take on a room remodel or any custom carpentry project, you can tackle things within your comfort zone like demo, painting and other relatively straightforward tasks and hire affordable contractors to handle each specific job that's left unfinished.

What are key rules for approaching a DIY project as a beginner?

There are two rules we live by when we approach any DIY project – have fun and prepare properly. We try not to take our DIY lives too seriously. It's supposed to be fun, and part of that fun comes from the challenge of bringing a vision to life, learning something new, making something with your own two hands or solving a

problem. So, no matter the outcome, try to enjoy that process. Thinking about taking on a DIY project can feel intimidating sometimes, but this isn't espionage. You're allowed to fail and have a great time doing it.

The other key piece of advice we always make sure to reinforce to our blog readers is that most of our successes in DIY can be directly attributed to careful planning and thorough preparation. When we're taking our time to formulate a really solid plan before we start a project, it allows us to work out kinks before any actual work starts. Once we plan and prepare properly, the rest of the project always works itself out.

What is a fun and easy project for adults?

DIY “scent pots” are easy to execute, stylish and make your home smell like fall and holiday heaven throughout these seasons. We also love that they fit right in with the rest of the year-round home décor, and they make your home feel cozy without all of the extra mess. We like to keep it sweet, simple and as clutter-free as possible so we can celebrate the seasons without feeling weighed down.

Which are the most popular projects to do during fall and winter?

By far the most popular projects throughout the fall and winter months are festive décor projects. It's such a creative time of year for us and we love seeing all of the genius ideas the design community comes up with.

Overall, throughout the fall and winter months we've noticed that one of the common threads on



the DIY, design and décor fronts is people just want to find ways to make their spaces cozier and create inviting places to gather and entertain.

That's what these seasons are all about, and for those of us in Arcadia, that usually means finding ways to make our outdoor areas extra cozy and perfect for gathering. Because the weather is so idyllic and deserves to be savored just in time for the fall, winter and holiday occasions, this is where we like to host. We see a lot of backyard parties and fireside hangouts in the neighborhood throughout these months, so it makes sense that Arcadia residents would feel the pull to revamp and beautify those spaces now that they can actually enjoy them.

Do you have any DIY design tips specifically for our neighborhood?

I'd say that creating livable, comfortable, functional and fun outdoor living spaces is a hallmark of Arcadia living and the neighborhood. For so much of the year, when everyone else across the country is holed up inside, we have this heavenly weather that deserves to be celebrated and embraced.

This neighborhood totally lives up to its name, from the scenery to the community that's always out and about, walking their dogs and waving from their front porch. I think that any way you can take

advantage of that and really soak that in will make your house feel like a home.

My advice is don't wait to bring your outdoor living space to life. It's relatively simple to build a DIY fire pit, or add a couple of comfy rockers to your front porch to watch the pups pass by. Or integrate outdoor lounge areas to relax in, a big backyard dining table to enjoy your morning coffee from or gather with friends and family under the Arizona night sky.

What about backyard transformations? Can people DIY that project too?

The pergola project we did in our backyard was hands-down the most fun project we took on this year; the makeover that has surprised and delighted us the most of any space we've ever transformed in our home. The mission of the pergola project was to show our readers how much they could transform the look, feel and functionality of a backyard space simply by adding one key, versatile centerpiece.

Installation only took two hours, so our backyard was transformed in a day, not multiple days or weeks of living in a construction zone. Our backyard was pretty simple before adding the pergola and without a ton of interest or functionality for entertaining, and just by adding

that one versatile centerpiece to the mix, our backyard has been completely elevated in the best way. (To see the project: loveandspecs.com).

A pergola allows you to get really creative on the décor front, or any occasion, and serves as a perfect backdrop for everything from dinner parties to date nights under the stars.

How about a project the family can do together?

Our requirements for any DIY home décor project we share on our blog are that they have to be easy to recreate for any level of craftiness, fuss-free on the tools and supplies front and somewhat budget-friendly, which means that a lot of them are great projects for the kids to jump in on.

This is one of our very favorite seasonal DIY projects: a seasonal bucket list board (opposite page). Not only is the actual board itself so much fun for the entire family to work together to help make and hang in the home, but it's also fun to make an afternoon of it. Let every person take their turn adding their favorite festive fall activities to the list. The entire concept of a seasonal bucket list board is all about really celebrating everything you love about each season and making the most of every moment you spend together as a family.

Scent pots

SUPPLIES:

- Small terracotta pots
- Small terracotta saucers
- Craft paint
- Size 4 Filbert brush
- Soft cloth
- Coffee beans
- Tea lights
- Cinnamon sticks

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Sand off imperfections on terracotta pots. A 150-grit sanding block should do the job. Wipe with a clean, damp cloth and let any wet spots dry.
2. In a cup or bowl, mix about a quarter sized dollop of craft paint with about 1 tbsp. of water to create your wash. More paint to less water will make for a more opaque wash, and more water to less paint will make the wash more transparent. Make sure the combination is thoroughly mixed for an even application.
3. Brush wash onto your terracotta pot and saucer and immediately wipe with a soft, dry cloth. The longer you let your wash sit without wiping, the more opaque the wash will be. You can always add more, so err on the side of caution and go light at first.
4. Once your wash is set on the pot and saucer, you're ready to paint your dots.
5. Dots can be tough if you don't use the right brush. Maryal used a number 4 Filbert brush. If you want your dots to be thicker and even maybe even slightly 3-D, you can put more paint on the brush and dip your brush back into the paint after every other dot you paint. Just quickly press the end of the brush head and lift. If you're okay with your dots being a little bit more transparent or watercolor-like, then you can dip your brush back into the paint after every 6 or so dots.
6. To create the exact dotted stripes, paint four dots in a square pattern. Do that all the way around your pot until the two ends met, and then add one dot in the center of each of those squares of four dots.
7. Once the paint is dry, add coffee beans to the pot. Just make sure you have the pots set on your saucers before you pour so beans don't slip through the drainage holes in the bottom of the pot. Place tea light on top and add a cinnamon stick to each one, right next to the tea light so that the stick heats up a little bit and becomes really fragrant.





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Taliesin West

Frank Lloyd Wright's monument to the Sonoran Desert

By Anthony Wallace

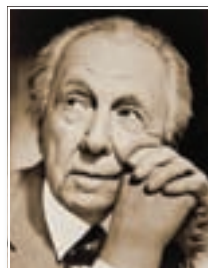
Like many others after him, Frank Lloyd Wright first arrived in the Phoenix area as he was nearing the traditional age of retirement. He was struck by the stark contrast between the desert and the lush rolling hills of Wisconsin and the Midwest where he was born, raised, and earned his reputation as America's most famous and influential architect.

"I believe in God, only I spell it nature," Wright wrote.

Wright was famous for his belief in organic architecture, a philosophy that stressed a harmony between a building and its place. And something about this place, the Sonoran Desert, inspired him.

In 1937, he purchased the plot of land at the base of McDowell Mountain where he was to construct his architecture school and winter home, Taliesin West. He spent the cooler months there each year until his death in 1959. It was there that Wright designed some of his most iconic structures, including Gammage Auditorium in Tempe and the Guggenheim Museum in New York City.

"Taliesin" is a Welsh word which translates to "shining brow." For Wright, it represented the ideal spot on a hill or mountain for a building. To build at the very top



Frank Lloyd Wright, 1954

would be clumsy and almost disrespectful, he believed, but the land where the Earth just begins to rise was the perfect place to embed a structure.

"We like to say that Wright's architecture is *of* the land not *on* the land. He wanted to create an architecture that was an integral whole with the landscape," said Fred Prozzillo, vice president of preservation at the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.

Taliesin West was so integrated with nature that its original window frames featured no glass coverings. At the beginning of each winter season, dirt and wildlife blown in by the summer haboobs had to be shoveled out.

Despite this idiosyncrasy of the place's early history, Wright was deeply concerned with the practicality





PHOTO: FOSKETT CREATIVE

of his buildings and the effect they had on those who inhabited them.

“The materials he used are functional, efficient, inexpensive and durable,” Taliesin guide Martha Mosley said.

In July 2019, it was announced that Taliesin West was officially designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It becomes the 24th such site in the United States and the second in Arizona, along with the Grand Canyon.

UNESCO specifies that for a place to be branded with this prestigious status, it must have had a “profound influence on global culture.”

Wright’s life spanned a critical and revolutionary period in our country’s history. When he was born in 1867, America was a young democracy still forming its identity.

“*We like to say that Wright’s architecture is of the land not on the land.*”

His peers in the late 1800s were preoccupied with emulating European architecture, while Wright was interested in creating something entirely new, something befitting of his emerging, energetic nation engrossed in the process of exploring its vast landscapes and promoting its ideals of freedom.

“A building is not just a place to be but a way to be,” Wright wrote.

He believed in free-flowing spaces for an open and free society. This was a radical departure from the popular Victorian homes of his time, which he called “boxes within boxes.”



PHOTO: ANDREW PIELAGE PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT FOUNDATION



PHOTO: ANDREW PIELAGE PHOTOGRAPHY

“It’s absolutely beautiful, the way the sun hits the soil and the colors it makes. The blue of the sky is so neat and clean,” Nelli said. “It’s magical. It’s incredible.”

“Wright blew that open and created the open plan, what most homes in Arizona are built with today, where you have a great room and there’s flowing space from one room to another room,” Prozzillo said. “He was trying to create a pure American architecture that was based on our democracy.”

Wright is a monumental figure whose impact on American culture is difficult to overstate. He is widely considered to be among the best and most influential architects in human history.

“I liken him to people like Steve Jobs or Elon Musk. He was not one to be told what to do. He had

a vision for something better. He was always pushing forward,” Prozzillo said.

People from across the world continue to be fascinated with Wright and his architecture.

“It’s a bucket list thing for a lot of people and it’s right in our backyard. It’s something we should be proud of,” Prozzillo said.

Tourists Valerio Nelli and Micaela De Santis, an Italian couple living in New York, were in the midst of a cross country road trip when they visited Taliesin West recently. They were just as struck by the landscape itself as the architecture.

“It’s absolutely beautiful, the way the sun hits

the soil and the colors it makes. The blue of the sky is so neat and clean,” Nelli said. “It’s magical. It’s incredible.”

Nelli said seeing images of Taliesin West and other Wright buildings in a magazine as a young boy in Italy inspired him to become an architect himself. For Nelli, visiting Taliesin West was a dream come true.

It stands as a monument to one of the great visionaries from human history. Taliesin West is both a world-class cultural attraction and testament to its creator’s infatuation with the striking natural landscape into which it was constructed.

For more: franklloydwright.org.



PHOTO: ANDREW PIELAGE PHOTOGRAPHY



Raymond Carlson House in Phoenix.



Benjamin Adelman House in Phoenix.



David Wright House in Phoenix.

Made for the Valley

Other Wright homes built in Phoenix

Benjamin Adelman House

The Adelman House is a great example of Wright's post-WWII dedication to designing affordable homes fit for the average American family. To achieve this dream, he created modular designs that could be easily modified to accommodate the changing needs of homeowners. This home was added onto in the 80s and some Wright purists were unhappy with the results. The addition seemingly didn't hurt its value though. In 1952 it cost just \$25,000; it sold for \$1.2 million in 2002. It features a staggering 438 windows and many of them remain plainly visible to passersby on the street.

Harold Price House

This Paradise Valley compound was built in 1952 for the pipeline-building mogul that owned the Price Company. The home features 10 rooms, including two servants' quarters. In 1964, after Price's death, the house was sold to Sam Shoen, the president of the U-Haul company. Today, it remains in private ownership and is occasionally used for charity events and opened to the public for tours.

Arthur Pieper House

Charles Mantooth was one of Wright's many esteemed apprentices who came to Taliesin West to learn from the master. When his education was completed, he teamed up with Arthur Pieper to start a construction company. Wright encouraged the move and gave them this design to test their skills. It is another early example of his post-war effort to create cheaper homes for the masses. Once this one was complete, Pieper and Mantooth went on to build the Benjamin Adelman house.

Boomer Cottage

This design was originally intended for the beaches of Carmel, CA, but it looks at home in the desert. It comes in at a cozy 1400 sq. ft., but features two stories and a striking, pointed, sedona-red roofline. The home is right down the

road from the Adelman house. Back in the day, the Boomers and Adelmans were VIPs known to hang out at the Biltmore, occasionally being joined by First Lady Mamie Eisenhower.

David Wright House

Wright built this iconic Arcadia home for his son David in 1952. It features a distinctive spiral design on an expansive plot of land offering stunning views of Camelback Mountain. David and his wife Gladys owned the home until she died at the age of 102 in 2008. Since then, the property has been the source of impassioned controversy. Today the property is on the market with an asking price of \$12.9 million.

Raymond Carlson House

The Raymond Carlson house is among the more mysterious Valley-area Frank Lloyd Wright homes. Out of college, Carlson got a job with the Arizona Highway Department and eventually ended up serving as the editor of *Arizona Highways* magazine from 1938 to 1971. He was a crucial figure in the history of the magazine, credited with giving it the style and tone it is known for to this day. Wright finished the home in 1951 as a thank you for Carlson's support over the years. It features striking turquoise highlights, but it is hard to catch a glimpse of. The home is privately owned and shrouded in walls and thick vegetation.

Norman Lykes House

The Lykes House holds the distinction as being the last home designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. He began work on the project in 1959, just before his death, and it was finished by his apprentices. The home, built near the Phoenix Mountain Preserve, has a circular design similar to the David Wright House. It has made headlines recently, as it was auctioned off for \$1.7 million in October. The anonymous buyer is out-of-state and will reportedly use the home as a vacation property.

For more information on these and other Frank Lloyd Wright homes visit franklloydwright.org.



Arthur Pieper House in Paradise Valley.



Boomer Cottage in Phoenix.



Harold Price House in Paradise Valley.



Norman Lykes House in Phoenix.

Home Tours for the holidays

By Cody Kennedy

People who love the holidays usually make an effort to see all the holiday lights, decorations and displays that pop up approaching the holiday season. Here are five Valley tours, from vintage spots to fully decked-out in Christmas decorations, that will keep those holiday cravings satiated.

11/1

Cooks' Tour

9 to 11:40 a.m.

Tickets are \$20 for the tour; \$20 for the luncheon

The 49th annual Cooks' Tour is here with a plethora of events to get the holidays started. There will be an afternoon tea table, holiday shopping with ornaments, books and decorations, plus homemade jams, pickles, snacks and baked goods.

There will be a luncheon available with "southwest flair," a silent auction, a jewelry table and a "watch dog" sculpture table – all with items available for purchase.

The home tour will consist of one of Paradise Valley's luxurious homes; guests will be surrounded by Native American art, rugs and pottery. A unique set of "Fence Posts" by acclaimed Indian artists will greet guests as they tour the home and grounds.

Hosted by Valley Presbyterian Church, the proceeds for this tour will go toward some of their charities.

For more: vpc.church.

11/9

Phoenix Home & Garden 2019 Home Tour

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets are \$85 for general, \$185 for VIP

At this event, guests will enjoy exclusive access to a group of the Valley's homes during this self-guided tour. These five homes were selected by *Phoenix Home & Garden* and are located in Arcadia, Paradise Valley and Scottsdale. There are general admission and VIP tickets available for this event. VIP admission includes a post-tour reception hosted by Architect Mark Candelaria and Isabel Dellinger Candelaria of Earth and Images Design. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Project Veterans Pride.

For more: phmag.com.

11/17

Historic Roosevelt Home Tour 2019

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$20

Near downtown Phoenix sits a neighborhood of homes that were built from the late 1800s to the 1930s,



known as the Roosevelt Historic District.

These homes have been honored with the first distinction of historical designation in Phoenix. In November, guests are welcome to take a self-guided tour of some of the restored homes while also enjoying the sights and sounds of one of downtown's first "streetcar suburbs." A trolley will circulate throughout the day to keep things moving.

For more: rooseveltneighborhood.org.

12/5-12/7

2019 Christmas Idea House, Mesa

Thursday preview gala: 5:30 p.m., \$100 per person

Friday brunch: 9 a.m. or 12 p.m., \$60 per person

Saturday open house: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., \$10 per person

This one is a little bit of a drive, but if Christmas decorations are a-calling, this is where you'll find them. The 62nd annual Christmas Idea House is presented by the Desert Club, a "nonprofit women's service organization providing scholastic scholarships to students living in the East Valley and community grants to non-profit organizations serving women and children."

The Christmas Idea House is a tour of one of Mesa's iconic homes, which will be transformed into a Christmas wonderland where visitors can find unique holiday gifts and décor displayed and for sale. The home

will be decorated by members of the Desert Club. This year's theme is "A Lasting Impression."

The preview gala includes a dinner followed by an exclusive home tour and shopping. Friday, guests can enjoy a brunch meal followed by the tour and shopping.

For more: christmasideahouse.org.

12/7-12/8

2019 FQ Story Historic Neighborhood Holiday Home Tour

Saturday from 6 to 9 p.m.

Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets are \$20

One of Phoenix's oldest communities is getting dressed up for the holidays. This neighborhood was named after Francis Quarles Story. He was involved in the development of early Phoenix, including the construction of Grand Avenue in 1887 and its streetcar line.

This year's tour features homes on Portland, Latham and Roosevelt Road. The event will begin on Saturday night with holiday carolers and streets lined with luminarias and lights. On Sunday, tour 8-10 historic homes and enjoy holiday shopping at the craft vendor village and food booths at the F.Q. Story Street Fair.

For more: fqstoryhometour.org.

Lasting Impressions

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Here at Lasting Impressions we realize that you have a choice when it comes to window and door replacement companies. You might ask yourself why you would choose Lasting Impressions for your project. The reason more than 70% of our business comes from repeat or referral business is because we take great pride in taking care of our customers.

Over the past 20 years, we've learned what

it takes to earn and keep our some 5,500+ customers' business. Our knowledgeable and service-oriented staff, as well as our interactive showroom has proven to be invaluable to the homeowner, remodeling specialist, and contractor.

As a family owned company with an outstanding reputation, you can trust that Lasting Impressions will deliver the superior customer service you should expect; and we will be around long after the job to ensure your complete satisfaction. We have the neighborhood reputation that validates our superior customer service although we consider each customer's own perception as our only measurement.



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Why You Should Invest in Security Locking Mailboxes

3942 East Campbell Ave | 602.956.7299 | stagecoachlocksmiths.com

Every day, more and more people fall victims to identity theft.

With so much personal information readily available both online and offline, it's easier than ever.

Identity thieves looking for valuable personal information regularly check unlocked mailboxes to steal your bank and utility bills.

They'll grab hold of anything that'll give them access to your personal data. So if you've been missing some of your mail lately, it's time to investigate into the matter.

The best way to prevent this is to get a security locking mailbox. They're a little more expensive than regular mailboxes, but you get a peace of mind and mail safety.

If you want to protect your personal information from curious eyes and thieves, invest in a high-quality locking mailbox.

Stagecoach Locksmiths offer a large variety of quality pedestal, wall mount and column type mailboxes to fit your needs and budget. If you have additional questions or would like to purchase a secure mailbox, please stop by our showroom at 3942 E. Campbell Ave.



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Integrated management systems now talk to you and each other

By Rhys Lee

Smart home technology has come a long way since “The Clapper.” In the last 20 years, basic home light controls have evolved to voice-activated options that were fantastic ideas in Hollywood movies. In the beginning, smart home tech seemed like a novelty that was trying to fill a need that consumers didn’t know they had.

Today, some systems enable homeowners to integrate controls for lighting, temperature, door locks, window treatments and alarm systems into one package. In a perfect world, these smart systems would be controlled through a single app on a phone and through voice commands. The ideal

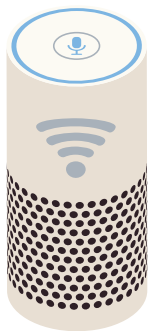
“With so many tech options, the consumers can get a little overwhelmed. It can be stressful with the learning curve for non-tech savvy people.”

setup would allow for greater connectivity between different areas of a home and between the homeowners and their houses.

There are home automation vendors that can consolidate the numerous different controls into one application for the phone or tablet for the user. All-controlling voice-activated systems are constantly evolving, increasing their compatibility with different hardware manufacturers.

However, as with anything new and cutting-edge, there’s a period in which people have to become comfortable with bringing new technological solutions into their everyday lives.

Dan Pena of Digital Home Lifestyles noted some of the challenges people experience during this process.



“With so many tech options from literally hundreds of manufacturers and solutions,” Pena said, “consumers can get a little overwhelmed. It can be stressful with the learning curve for non-tech-savvy people.”

Pena suggests starting with products from main brands that offer easy-to-use interfaces. For sound systems, he recommends Sonos, which he said regularly updates to keep its user experience simple.

For home security systems, Pena recommends alarm.com, which has more than five million customers nationwide. The alarm.com system can control window and motion sensors, cameras, water leak sensors, front and garage door locks and family-safety options like smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Finally, Pena recommends Lutron for smart lighting dimmers and switches. Pena likes Lutron because he says it is both easy to use and easy to set up.

For homeowners searching for an all-in-one solution to transform their house into a smart home, Jaci Kuntz of local builder Blue Sky Homes suggests Loxone, which offers an entire suite of products that cover nearly everything for the home, from security music to maintaining balance of the pool chemicals.

What makes this company stand out is its Miniserver, “where all the logic processing takes place and it effectively allows the components and devices to share information,” Luxone’s website explains.

A smart home that knows its user is asleep at midnight could turn on all the lights, sound a piercing alarm and call its user if the carbon monoxide or smoke detector goes off. If it receives no response it can trigger a call to emergency services. A smart home that saves lives would definitely fill a need for consumers.



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