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# PHOENIX HOME & GARDEN

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## ARIZONA HOMES of the YEAR



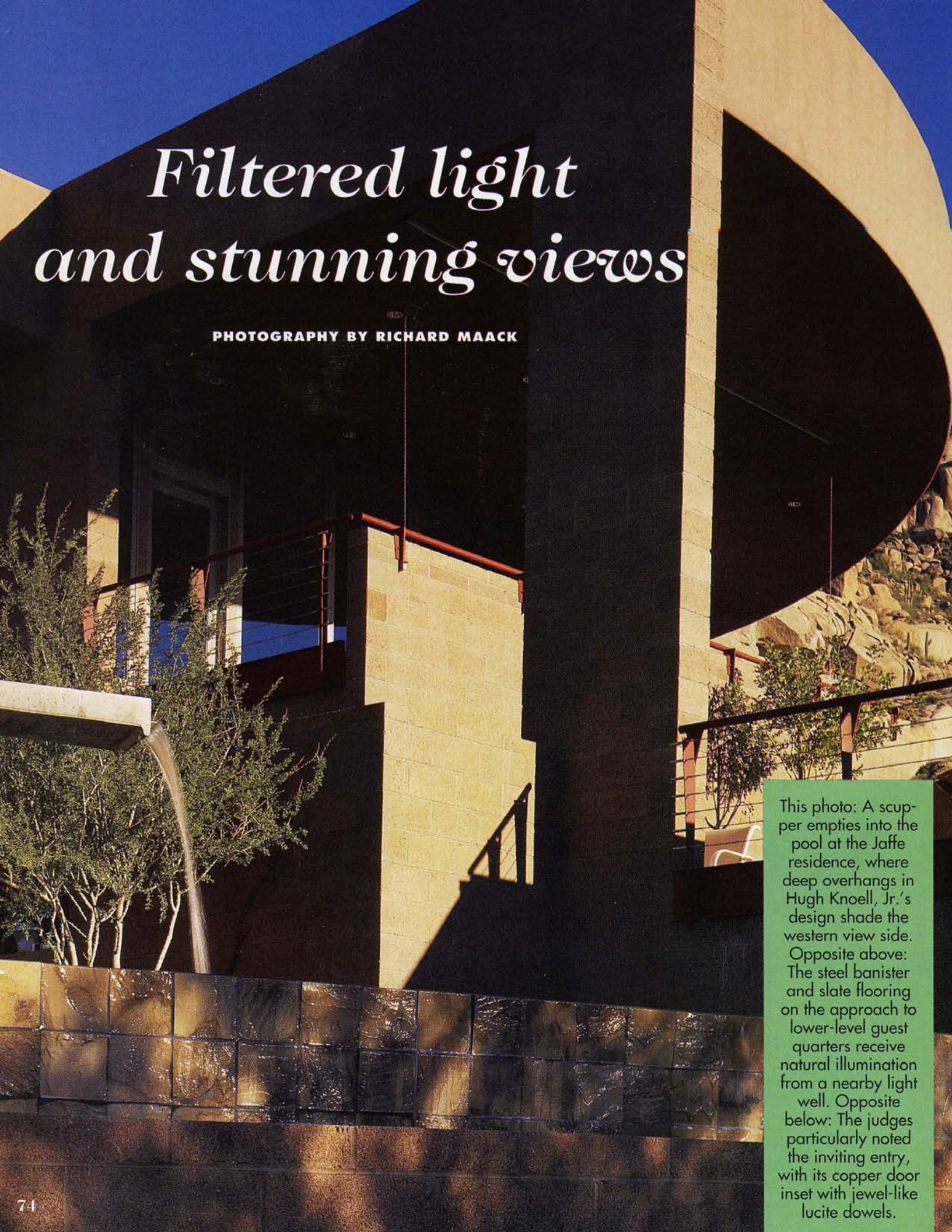
New Age Adobe

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Breakfast in the Garden



# Filtered light and stunning views

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICHARD MAACK



This photo: A scupper empties into the pool at the Jaffe residence, where deep overhangs in Hugh Knoell, Jr.'s design shade the western view side. Opposite above: The steel banister and slate flooring on the approach to lower-level guest quarters receive natural illumination from a nearby light well. Opposite below: The judges particularly noted the inviting entry, with its copper door inset with jewel-like lucite dowels.

AAA  
MERIT AWARD

*"Here they can  
enjoy desert vistas,  
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quality of light,  
and enjoy easy times . . ."*



**The north Scottsdale site** Martin and Ruth Jaffe chose for their house formed a dish with an overall twenty-five-degree slope. Road construction uphill had changed the drainage patterns, so an arroyo running through it was drying out. The land's natural beauty, however, led architect Hugh Knoell, Jr. to a design solution which would capture its western-oriented views and conserve plant life that included a thirty-eight-foot saguaro with one arm raised in a rather friendly manner.

The Jaffes, who prefer an open arrangement of rooms for casual entertaining, love to collect art, so Knoell—in association with his firms' architects Jack Leonard and Laura Coven and interior designer Sandra Evans—selected natural materials appropriate for a display environment. Evans designed several pieces of contemporary furniture to complement the bold colors of the living room's mostly abstract canvases. Flooring squares of slate and custom fiddleback maple cabinetry offer warm contrast to the sandblasted masonry walls and the polished steel of the staircase.

Dedicating an area to generous and versatile guest quarters suggested a two-storey arrangement that would hug the slope and place the master suite on a separate upper level. Quilted fabric squares decorated by each of the children's families created coverlets on three sets of bunk beds. The youngsters' dormitory and two nearby suites intended for adult visitors open to the pool and sun deck. Rows of swim-suit hooks mounted inside adjacent showers testify to forethought.

Backfilling to snug the lower level against the incline would have eliminated windows, generating a basement feeling. Instead, retaining walls create light wells that seem to pull boulders and palo verde trees into closer proximity.

Throughout, architectural elements screen neighbors and frame the most attractive angles. Those entering the driveway, for example, see Pinnacle Peak above the house. Leonard's square portals at the entrance and pool deck edit views for best advantage. One masonry wall continues inside the house to frame the stairwell.

The scupper that empties into the pool generates a splash audible from patios on both levels. Overhangs provide seasonal solar protection, enhanced when necessary by vertical screens on invisible guide wires.

The master suite celebrates function as an opportunity for artistic play. A closet arrangement is configured to be both private and open. Stacked-glass insets that form the profile of a mountain ridge in the shower glass also enable it to serve as a modesty screen.

"These clients sold another lot to buy this one," recalls Knoell, whose sensitivity to the site drew special accolades from the jury. "They're glad they did. Here they can enjoy desert vistas, appreciate the great quality of light, and enjoy easy times, either by themselves or with the family." ■