

making it

Homeowner Sara Cohen wanted her Foothills home to be a true reflection of who she is and what she loves. With the help of a local interior designer, it's now a vibrant space illuminated by the homeowner's favorite colors and treasures.

BY TARA KIRKPATRICK
PHOTOGRAPHY BY REDDIE HENDERSON

“Sara told me a little about her background, her interests and that she wanted to go green. She also said that she liked sparkle, vitality and peacefulness,” says Robin Motzer, an award-winning Tucson interior designer who also has a background in fine arts and Feng Shui. “She also likes to entertain and wanted a space where people would walk in and say, ‘Wow!’”

And after a five-month renovation, that's exactly what Sara got.

Once inside the front door, a majestic purple and metallic Venetian-plastered wall sets off a captivating European crystal light fixture that looks like diamonds falling from the sky. “Watching it being installed was breathtaking,” Sara recalls. “I love sitting on the staircase and looking at it. The sunlight creates rainbows all over the wall.”

The deep purple is then nuanced throughout the two-story house, into the hallway and finally, with great fanfare, in the walls, carpeting and tile fireplace in the master bedroom. “Sara is dynamic and vivacious, a world traveler and a philanthropist,” says Motzer. “Purple is her favorite color and is very regal — fitting for her. As a bonus, in color therapy, it is also great for bedrooms as it is very soothing and relaxing and promotes better sleep.”

In the main living room and petite den, Motzer custom-designed side-lit shelves to highlight special pieces from Sara's world travels, which have included China, Prague, Africa and Brazil. She is also an active community volunteer, helping to chair the Tucson Festival of Books as well as serving on the Jewish Community Center board of directors. ▶

Personal



Dated whitewashed cabinetry was replaced to help create this dream kitchen. Green elements include cork flooring, energy-efficient appliances and lighting, recycled glass counters and no-VOC paint.





ABOVE A recycled concrete-and-glass countertop complements the Swarovski crystal pendant lighting in the master bath.
 RIGHT Custom cabinetry, designed by Motzer, holds the homeowner's collections from around the world.

For the floor, the dynamic duo chose caramel-colored cork that is soft and foot-friendly. The room's back wall was turned into a large, folding door that enlarges the space and creates a seamless flow for entertaining. The now easily accessible back patio features a custom barbecue grill, as well as one of Sara's stunning marble sculptures — an art form to which she is devoted, studying with her mentor, Arizona craftsman Merlin Cohen.

In the dining room, Motzer rounded the original octagonal ceiling for a softer shape, then added a beautiful silver finish. Art lighting accents more of the magnificent art collection, which adorns the walls of both floors.

Iridescent glass tile and Swarovski crystal lighting play up the sparkle throughout the home. Her kitchen shines with sapphire radiance against warm wood cabinets and stainless steel appliances. The powder room glows a transcendent turquoise with a one-of-a-kind, artistic countertop and the master bathroom is punctuated with jeweled lighting against a warm taupe tiled backsplash.

"The gem-like quality of the lighting is a reflection of the vitality, healing, peace and beauty that we wanted to create," Motzer says. "Crystals are known not only for their beauty but also for their healing properties."

Above all, Sara wanted her new space to be environmentally responsible. She converted to solar for heating and chose the Venetian-plaster walls and durable cork flooring as eco-friendly design options. She also used halogen lighting and recycled glass tile and countertops in the bathrooms. The purple carpeting in the master bedroom is actually made from corn.





“This was a really great project because we constructed as we went along,” Motzer says. “I pulled together ideas that I felt Sara would like. She loved being a part of the design process and we went shopping together to narrow down choices. In addition to pulling things together, I helped her visualize the outcome. It was a joy to create such a beautiful space for her to enjoy.” **HG**

Source:
 RLM Designs, Robin Motzer, Allied Member ASID, (520) 820-0404,
www.robinmotzerdesigns.com

ABOVE The addition of a door wall makes indoor/outdoor living easy. Custom-colored Venetian plaster in violet features metallic silver accents. More custom cabinetry flanks the fireplace, safely storing the homeowner’s art collection.