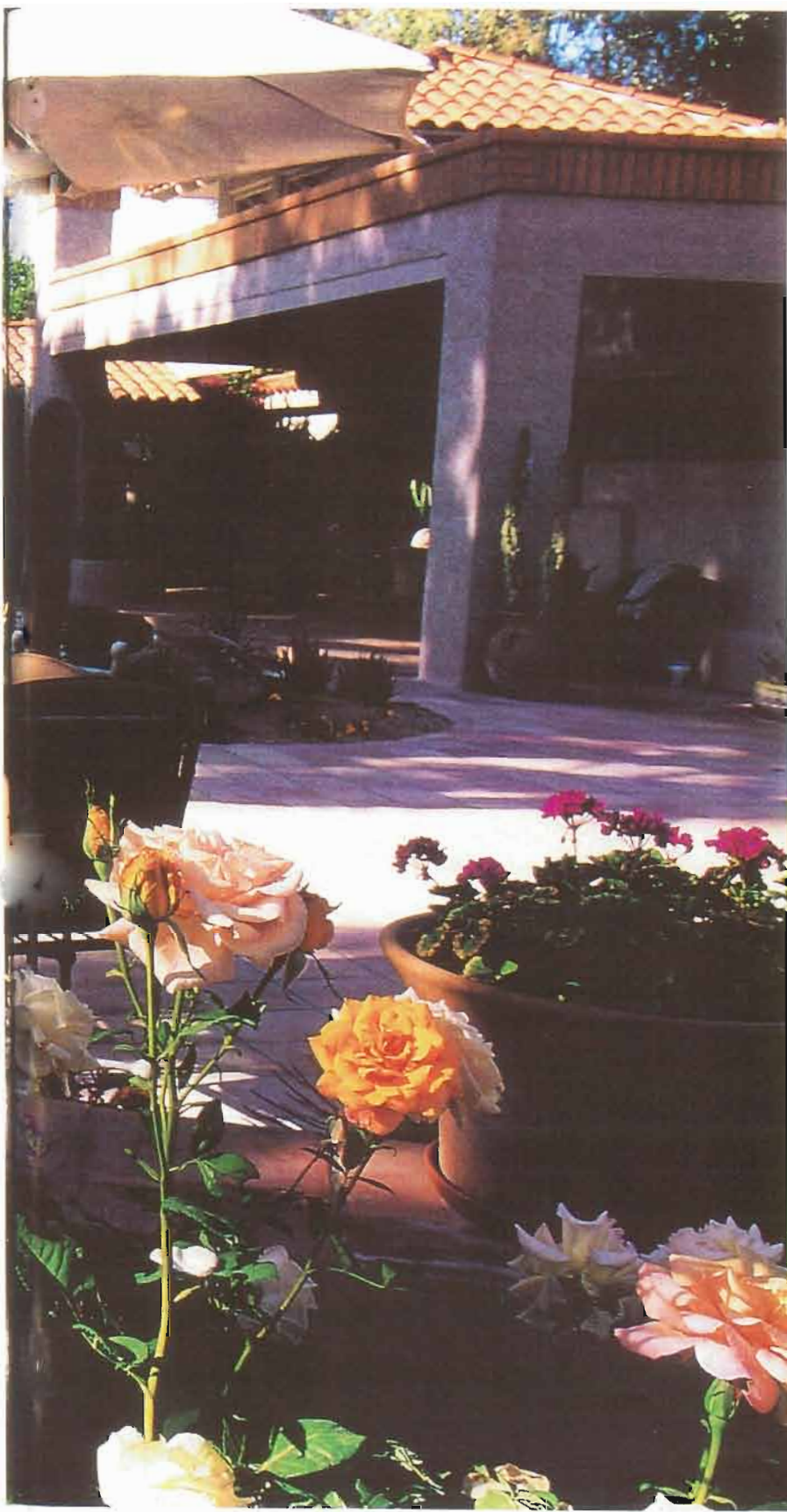


garden

of intimacy



Cliff Hoffmann has a thing about Southwest fireplaces. Between his guest quarters, back yard and the main house, he has exactly eight (four inside, four outside). And when he and his wife, Livia, host a party, there is always someone whose sole duty it is to stoke the coals and keep the fires burning.

Extravagant? Maybe. A luxury? Absolutely. But for the Hoffmanns, who spend as much time in Illinois, where they run a business, as they do in Arizona, being able to enjoy the diversity of the Southwest is all part of its charm.

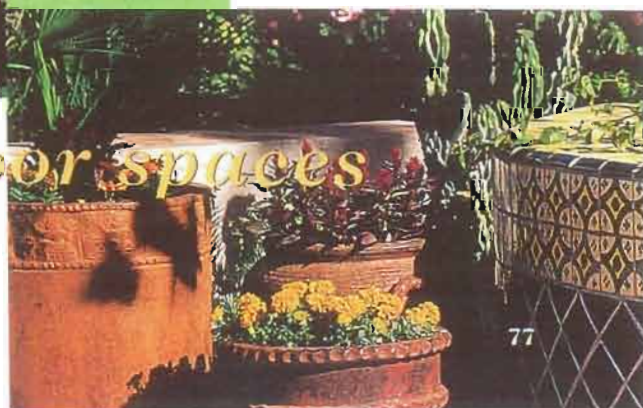
Phoenix Home & Garden first visited the Hoffmanns' north Scottsdale home in

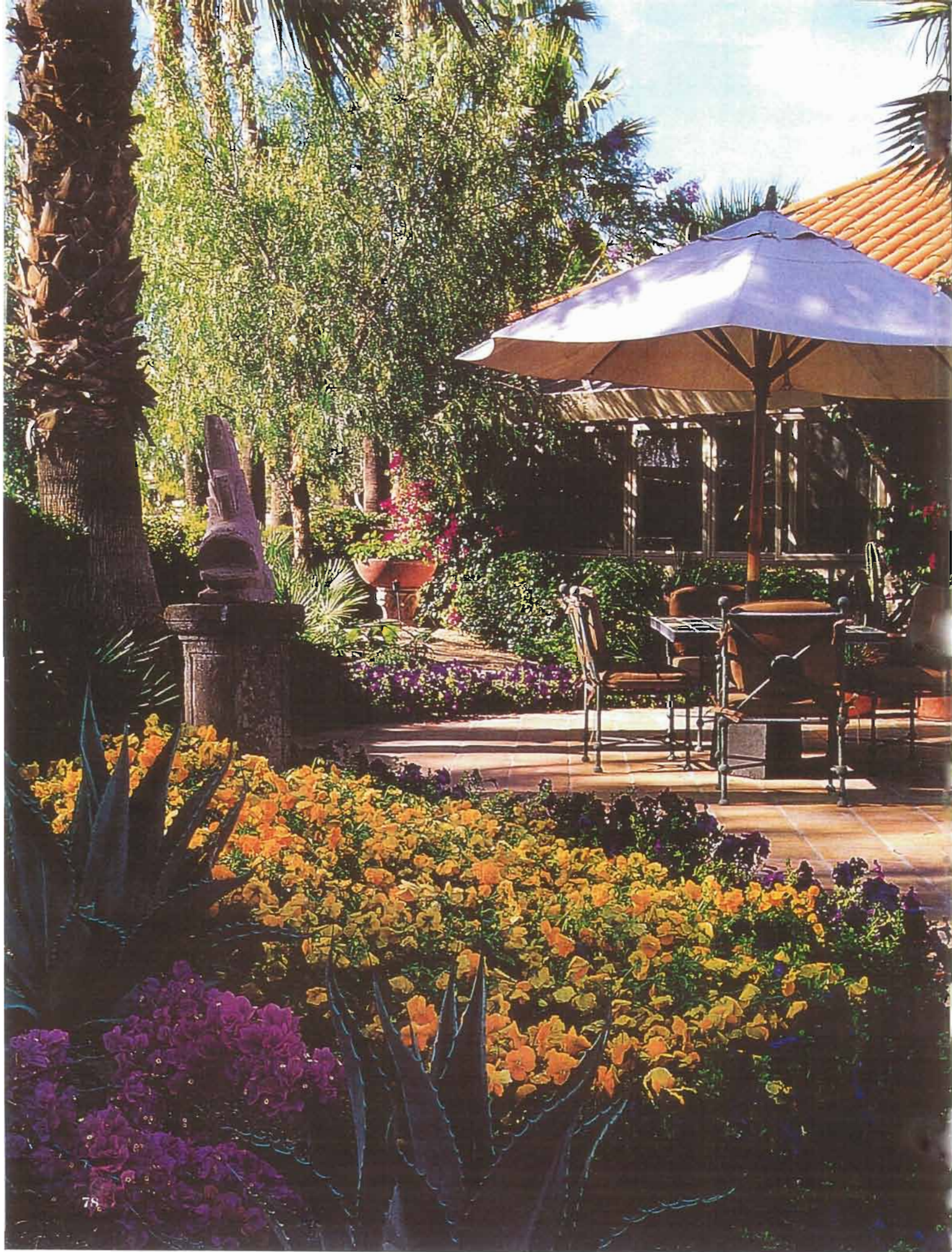
Left: When this lush golf-course property was relandscaped, a special rose garden was planted with varieties named after the homeowners' grandchildren. Below: Masses of celosia and marigolds create a lively display complemented by Mexican Talavera tile and terra cotta pots. Cacti and palms add depth and texture.

September 1984. They recently had moved from a condo in Phoenix to this golf-course property "to get away from the congestion of the city and be able to enjoy the quiet and the views." Although new, the house was given a brighter, more Southwestern feel with a fresh coat of paint, skylights, *Saltillo* tile and an outdoor ramada.

creating cozy outdoor spaces

TEXT BY NANCY ERDMANN • PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHARLES MANN





*t*he primary goal of the renovation was to create more intimate spaces within the back yard.

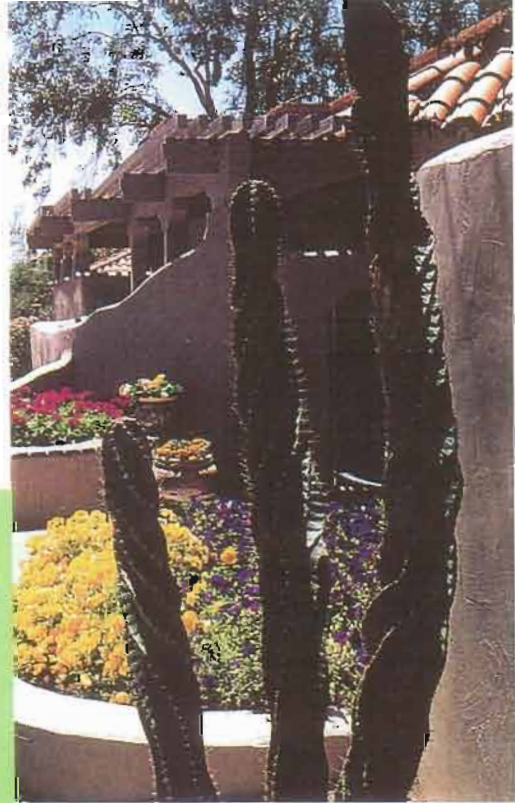
As changes continued, PH&G paid a second visit in April 1991, after the kitchen was altered structurally and given a “jolt of color” with the addition of vividly painted Mexican cabinet doors.

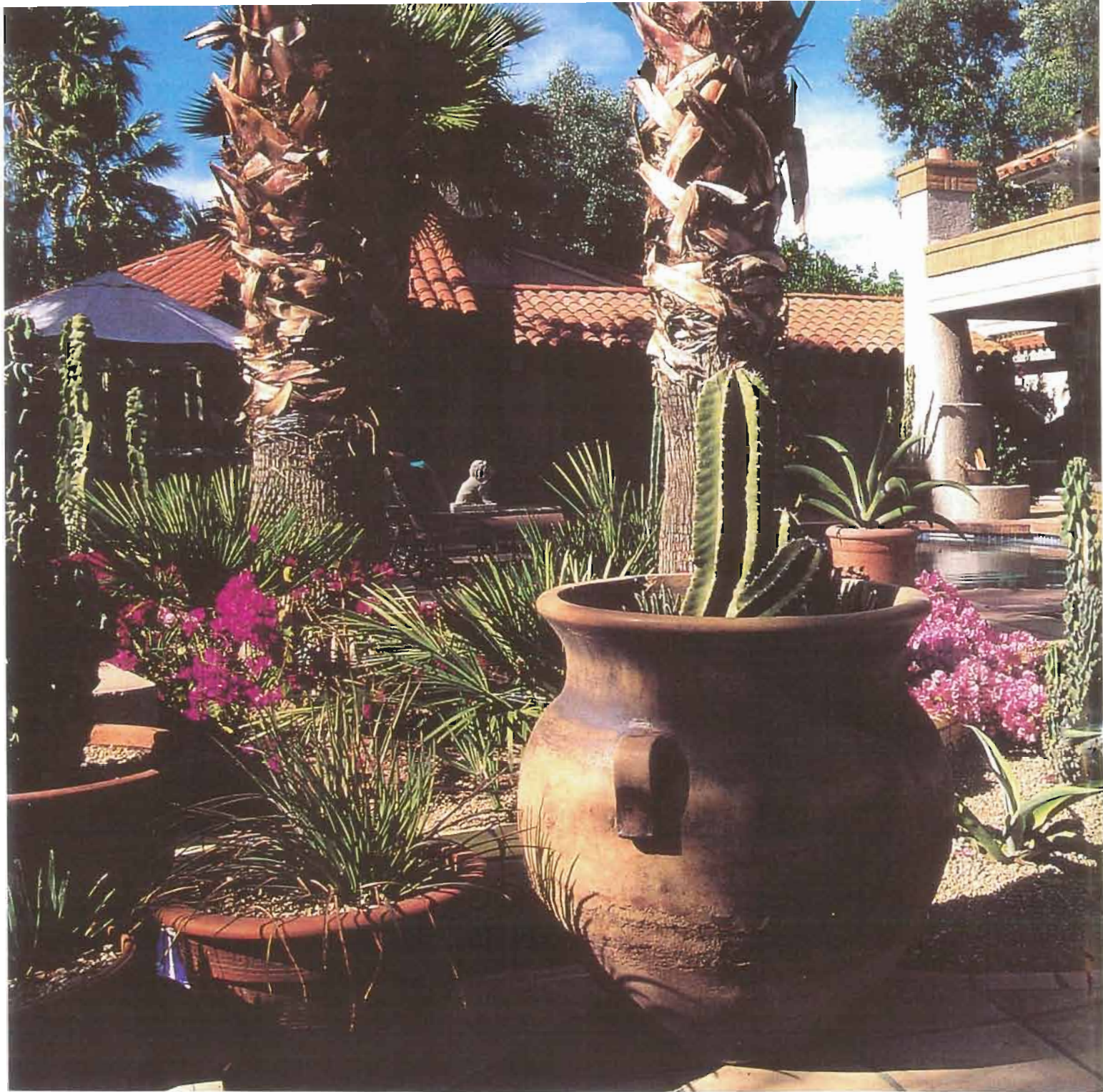
Now, six years later, color and structural change again have played a key role in the property’s evolution—this time in the landscaping. “When I first began working with Cliff and Livia, the interior had already been redesigned with a Mexican-Hacienda theme,” says landscape architect Chad Robert of Landscaping by André. “It was our goal to carry that theme into the garden and achieve a balance between the interior and exterior spaces.”

The toughest part of this assignment, according to Robert, was creating a sense of continuity with the existing mélange of plants, tile, watering systems and elevations. “People often think it’s easy to achieve an eclectic look. All you have to do is put a bunch of things together and it will work,” he notes. “But I think it’s one of the more difficult things to do successfully since you are combining so many different elements.”

While the main anchors of the hardscape were already in place (i.e. *sala*, or outdoor living space; ramada; pool; guest

Opposite: A dramatic display of spring annuals, cacti and bougainvillea bloom in this outdoor garden room. Right: Purple petunias, yellow faceless pansies and deep fuchsia geraniums were added to balance the bougainvillea around the entryway. Twisted cereus presents a striking silhouette. Below: Sun-loving cacti in terra cotta pots bring cohesiveness to the landscape and draw attention to quieter corners.





*i*ntimate niches invite exploration,
color resonates throughout



house), the primary goal of the renovation was to create more intimate spaces within the back yard. "We had too much cement, and we wanted to break up the area and make it more interesting," recalls Cliff.

Pavement was removed in both the front and rear gardens, and several new planting areas were added. Rose bushes that once were scattered throughout the yard were transplanted in an area behind a low wall, creating a special rose garden that is visible only when in bloom. To add to the fun, Cliff and Livia have named a rose bush after each of their grandchildren.

Robert's repeated use of color and plant material immediately provided cohesiveness. Palms, agaves, cacti and bougainvillea enhance the Southwest flavor of the grounds, while seasonal color, including a purple orchid tree, complements the golds and purples of the Mexican Talavera tile surrounding raised flower beds. Terra cotta pots, once used for annuals, now are filled with low-water-use native plants.

"When we first started on this project, Cliff and Livia wanted to get rid of the pots because they were too much work, and water was always overflowing onto the deck and staining it," Robert recalls. Now all the pots are hand-watered, and a new irrigation system installed in the flower beds ensures that each plant gets only the water it needs.

In the front yard, a new brick driveway was installed, and olive trees were replaced with mesquites and ironwoods to create a screen from neighboring homes. To balance the entryway, deep fuchsia geraniums were planted to match existing bougainvillea, and colorful annuals were added to complement the tile. Off the driveway an ornate iron gate leads to a lovely shade garden. Agapanthus, sago palms, bird of paradise, jasmine and bougainvillea provide a lush, cool environment.

As you walk among the cacti and roses, perennials and native flora, it is evident that what started out as a hodgepodge of design elements has become a space filled with depth and warmth. Intimate niches invite exploration, and seasonal color resonates throughout the garden.

Is this the end of the Hoffmann remodeling story or just another chapter in a book full of wonderful possibilities? More than likely, it's the latter. ■

*and seasonal
the garden.*

Above: A view from the back nine. Tall palms and an abundance of containers full of low-maintenance, water-wise plants enhance the landscape's Southwest flavor. Right: Brilliant pink bougainvillea and blue-green agave are an eye-catching combination.

