







**This photo:** The mood shifts at sunset, when backyard lights are turned on. **Right:** A path leads to a cozy sitting area with a view of the McDowell Mountains. Pink evening primrose blooms in the foreground.

It's been a year since the project's completion, and the couple still looks forward to Friday nights in the garden, as well as Thanksgiving dinners on the patio and numerous other benefits of outdoor living.

The renovation is complete, but a garden is rarely finished. "When we walk the property, I'll find 20 spaces where I feel I need something, and then I'll buy 50 plants we love and wonder when I get home where I'm going to put them all," Bienstock says with a smile. His next project is to plant a vegetable garden.

A civil trial attorney at Steptoe & Johnson LLP and a self-described Type A-plus personality, Bienstock says his greatest joy in gardening comes, surprisingly, from his lack of control over the outcome. "Gardening is so different from what I do every day," he notes. "The gardener can plant and prune, but with so many elements—like the weather—out of your control, at some point it's all up to nature."

Valley residents will be able to visit the desertscape during *Phoenix Home & Garden's* Grand Tour of Gardens on April 9. ☒

*See Sources.*

