

SO UNIQUE! design

A GRAND ENTRANCE

BY SUSAN LANIER-GRAHAM

FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE MADE AT FIRST GLANCE—BOTH OF PEOPLE *AND* HOMES

Y our entryway—the foyer—is the first impression visitors have of your home. Whether you're building a new home, remodeling an existing one, or redecorating, there are some great ways to design a grand entrance. The entryway, both just outside the door and just inside in the foyer, should bring a feeling of anticipation. "The entryway should be like a movie trailer, giving you a preview of what's to come in the rest of the house," says Anita Lang Mueller, owner of Interior Motives in Fountain Hills.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 86

SO UNIQUE! design

Mueller's best advice is to remember to bring in all the senses in your entryway. The foyer should reflect not only the style but also the materials used throughout your home. If you use this area to set the stage, it will definitely provide a grand entrance, regardless of size or budget. Paige Bailey of Paige Bailey & Associates and One Posh Place in Scottsdale emphasizes that thought and creativity are more important than money in designing your foyer.

BEGIN AT STAGE ONE If you plan to build a home, working with the builders and architects during the pre-construction and pre-renovation phase is extremely important. Not only will it help to ensure a magnificent and well-thought-out foyer, but bringing in the additional expert, the interior designer, can actually save you money.

Color, texture, lighting and the use of innovative materials are important in every foyer. A great example of all these elements and how working with the designer in the pre-construction phase is essential is illustrated in the photograph (above, right). Designed by Interior Motives for local homeowners, this home's entryway seamlessly connects the exterior with the interior foyer by using glass doors, architectural designs, colors and patterns.

Colored concrete on the floor creates a dramatic sun design. The slight dome in the ceiling reflects the circular pattern on the floor, half outside and half inside the home. The use of rope lighting overhead provides visual continuity. This was only possible because the designers worked closely with the architect and builder. In fact, they tweaked the architectural design of the home to create the dramatic dome.

CHOOSE YOUR PIECES WISELY Alcoves are becoming more popular in entryways. Bailey uses alcoves and soft lighting to deal with the unique challenges of the circular walls. Tapestries can substitute for difficult-to-hang pictures. One area where Bailey doesn't encourage the rounded symmetry is in entry rugs. "I don't use round rugs. Even in circular rooms, I like the classic style of a square rug."

One accessory designers rely on in entryways is seating. Try curved wooden benches and barrel-back chairs in circular entryways so they flow with the space. In Tuscan-style homes, try a chaise lounge.

Also, think of ways to personalize your space. Use a collection of pieces in a shadow box, an eclectic art collection—anything that speaks to you and will help to bring personal touches to the designer space.

SEPARATE THE SPACE Often, separating spaces is a concern with foyers. In Mueller's design with the sun in the entryway, the outside flows into the foyer, which opens into the great room. Color, texture, lighting and materials, combined with the floor and ceiling designs, create a distinct foyer.

Three-dimensional artwork can also provide a visual separation. A large sculpture or even a smaller sculpture placed on a hall table adds a unique perspective to the foyer, the room beyond, and the artwork itself, while dividing the space.

Creating a foyer is sometimes a challenge in remodels, particularly in tract homes or



HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN GRAND ENTRANCE

RESOURCES TO HELP

AUERHAUSE

Interior Design/Home Furnishings
Scottsdale
480.767.0880
www.auerhause.com

BEDBROCK DEVELOPERS, LLC

Home Builders
602.695.1000
www.bedbrock.com

CLASSIC STELLAR HOMES, INC.

Home Builders
Phoenix
480.218.7910
www.classicstellarhomesaz.com

EXOTIC HOME

Home Furnishings
Scottsdale
480.443.8100
www.exotichome.net

ONE POSH PLACE

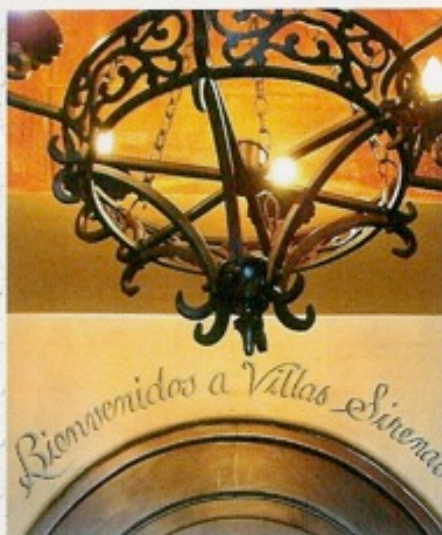
Interior Design Services
by Paige Bailey & Associates, Inc.
Interior Design/Home Furnishings
Scottsdale
480.941.8954
www.oneposhplace.com

PORTOBELLO ROAD HOME FURNISHINGS

Home Furnishings
Scottsdale
480.609.3071

VERNON SWABACK & ASSOCIATES

Architecture/Planning/Interior Design
Scottsdale
480.367.2100
www.swabackpartners.com



semi-custom homes where you might open the door and walk right into the home. You want to create an entryway so you don't reveal too much of the home from the doorway. One way to do this is to add a partial wall or use fabric to separate the area. For example, you can add a partial wall with architectural glass to give a sense of division without overwhelming an area. A fabric canopy or curtain can divide a room if that fits better with the home's style.

Even in a small condominium or town home, you can create a foyer with a panel of luxurious fabric pulled to one side or a dazzling piece of artwork on the wall.

MAKE IT BIG One very important aspect to consider when creating a grand entrance is scale. Although homeowners are often skeptical at first, you can exaggerate the scale with pieces in the foyer. Use oversized mirrors or a large art piece to create a statement.

One feature being incorporated more and more in today's home designs is the use of galleries rather than hallways off foyers. These galleries feature molding, niches, bookcases and benches. Add an eclectic art collection and the space almost becomes a room.

BRING THE OUT, IN You can also use nature when possible to create an exquisite entryway. Whether it's bringing in the desert at the front door or utilizing the view seen through the back windows, you can bring the outdoors inside. This was Mueller's goal in her design built around the sun flooring. By adding fountains, seating, and natural tiles along with native plants at the entry, then using large expanses of glass and extending the design between the interior and exterior, she brings the outdoors inside. The foyer also sets the mood for the rest of the home and gives a unique look into the owners' personalities.

A dramatic example of a grand entryway that relies on small touches while enabling nature to serve as the dramatic touch is Villas Sirenas in the seaside resort of San Carlos, Mexico. These luxury condominiums are currently being developed by the San Carlos Development Group of Scottsdale under the architectural supervision of the Scottsdale firm Swaback Partners. As you can see in the picture (top, left) with the wall between the living room and patio open, you see breathtaking views of the Sea of Cortez the minute you walk inside. The foyer then relies on small details to provide an eclectic touch without detracting from the natural beauty of the view.

As the photograph of the entryway shows (middle, left), the designers used those same concepts of color, lighting, textures and materials to create a dramatic statement. The natural tile floors, rich solid mahogany doors, Old World lighting, art niches and a unique handcrafted brick ceiling, shown in the picture of the entryway details, (below, left) add to the rich feel without taking anything away from the natural view.

Today's grand entryways reflect the mood of the home, the personality and characteristics of the owners, and make use of an eclectic blend of colors, textures and materials to uniquely offer up tradition with a contemporary twist. Remember that the foyer sets the stage for your home. Don't be afraid to try something oversized, bold and eclectic, but keep it true to the overall style of your home. ✦