

animal magneti

PAULA FASSEAS ALWAYS HAS
ROOM FOR ONE MORE RESCUED
PET IN HER ARIZONA HOME

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BY SAXON HENRY PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES CARRIÈRE AND WERNER STRAUBE PRODUCED BY ELAINE MARKOUTSAS

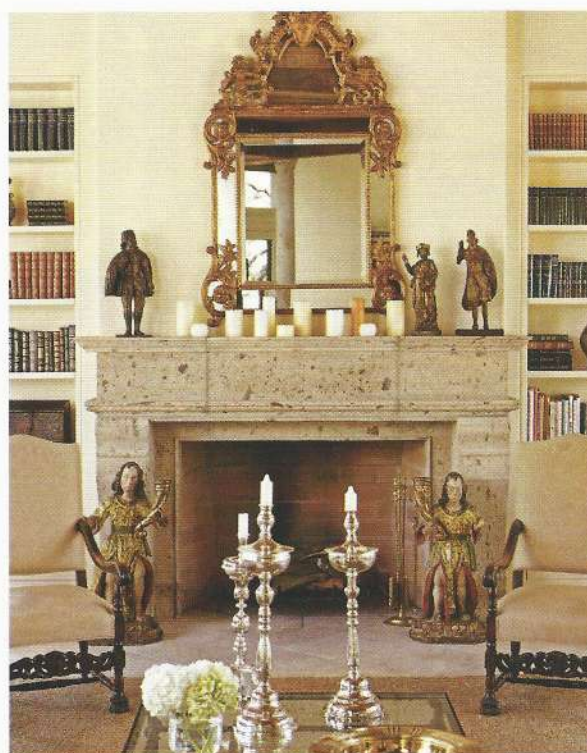


Paula Fasseas

PET LOVER,
PAWS FOUNDER,
PIE-BAKER,
BANK EXECUTIVE, *and*
WORLD TRAVELER

The list of treasures one could imagine bringing home from a trip to the Greek Isles is long and varied, but a scrappy pup with great cunning for charming tourists into giving him food wouldn't likely make the cut. Chicagoans Peter and Paula Fasseas, who are both of Hellenic descent, aren't your run-of-the-mill Greek tourists, so Paula didn't think twice about bringing the feisty dog back to the United States and making it a member of the family. "He was such a character," she says of Pippen, who cemented her commitment as a pet advocate. "He might have been poisoned if we hadn't rescued him."

The couple's Greek heritage also had a hand in the design of their second home in Tucson. "Hellenism is about bringing different cultures together," Paula explains, "so I wanted the house to have an eclectic feeling." Paula grew up in Tucson. Embracing the outdoors in her collaboration with Chicago architect Howard Holtzman was as natural as the desert hikes she took with her father when she was a girl. "Howard really understood what I wanted to do," says Paula. "He said, 'You



Far left: Juxtaposed against French limestone floors and pale walls, the iron-studded doors, a chunky column, and a French commode holding a 19th-century Mexican portrait are commanding elements in the living room and hall.

Left: An 18th-century French gilded mirror hangs above a mantel carved from Mexican cantera stone. The 19th-century chairs are French, as are the polychrome archangels discovered at Les Puces de Saint-Ouen, the famous Paris flea market.

Preceding pages, left: Lush foliage surrounds the Tucson home of Peter and Paula Fasseas.

Right: Paula with PAWS puppies Hera (left) and Hercules.





want the house to look like the wind blew along the desert and uncovered it.' That was exactly right!"

With the architectural decisions set, Paula turned to the home's surroundings, working with landscape architect Carl Kominsky to create an elemental setting that is one with the desert. "We created streams that flow along the contours of the land into a natural ravine," she explains. "When it rains, it's the path the water takes, and it's where we see wild animals drinking afterwards."

Paula's father, an avid cook, advised her to plant fruit trees on the property, guidance that she and Peter celebrate each time they pluck grapefruit, lemons, and tangerines from the branches. "We're in the Sonoran desert, one of the most luscious in the world," Paula remarks. "It's so hospitable; there are no mosquitoes, and the air smells so sweet."

Her penchant for baking pies also infuses the Sonoran air with rich aromas. "I have a wonderful pie crust recipe, given to me by my aunt," she explains. "I love to bake pies with fresh fruit, especially peaches." Due to her Tucson roots, the home is a natural gathering place for aunts, uncles, cousins, and her mother, who lives nearby. Knowing she would be hosting large get-togethers for the holidays and other special occasions, Paula wanted a fluid arrangement of rooms and a well-equipped kitchen.

"We accomplished everything I asked for," she explains. "There is a great flow to the house when we're entertaining, and the kitchen works like a dream." Three commercial warming drawers keep foods ready when one course segues to the next, and the commercial range on the veranda gives Paula added capacity for feasts. "I could never have had such a powerful range in the house, and I'm surprised how much we use it," she says. "The house and the outdoor spaces combined have all the ingredients for a great party!"

Peter and Paula are ardent travelers who are always on the lookout for acquisitions. Many of the furnishings were gathered during rambling trips abroad to England, the South of France, and at Les Puces de Saint-Ouen, the famous Paris flea market. "To call it a flea market is a misnomer," says Paula. "I've bought beautiful antiques there, like a pair of amazing archangels and a Baccarat crystal liquor case that remains one of my favorite finds." Paula credits the collection of things she has gathered for the home's heartfelt personality. "I think if a home takes on a family's persona, it feels like a history book," says Paula. "That's how this house feels when I walk through it now."

For those times when their grown children, Alexis and Drew, visit, Paula designed the guest rooms to be serene and embracing. She treasures one in particular—a bedroom with lush sienna Venetian plaster walls that contrast wistfully with pale muslin curtains draping a four-poster bed. "I love how the walls make the room feel so cool, even though the color is warm," she remarks. The bed, which was designed by New Orleans artist

A needlepoint rug is as exuberant as the lush views beyond the expansive windows. A rock-crystal chandelier hangs above the antique English mahogany table, which Paula has paired with Mexican Chippendale chairs from the 1950s.



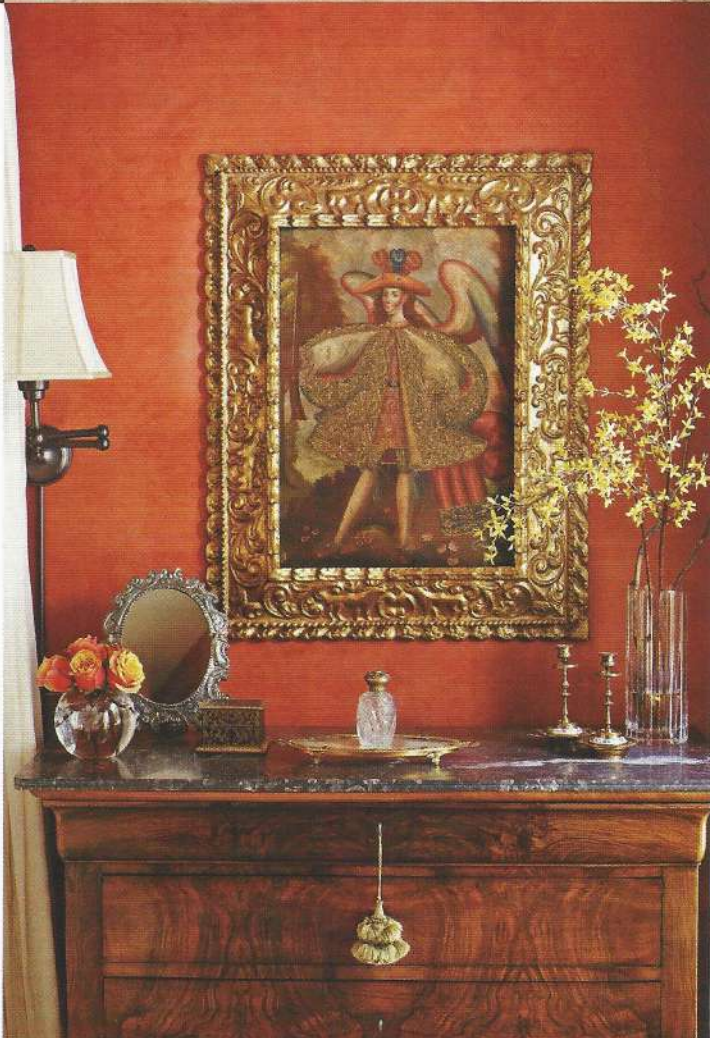
Mario Villa, is one of the many artisan-inspired touches that Paula has commissioned for the home.

Both banking executives, Peter and Paula look forward to spending more time nestled into the treasured desert-swept setting as the years pass. Since the pups are always in tow, the pitter-patter of paws will accompany their days there. The couple is already hunting for ways to give back to the Tucson community. The opening of the Peter and Paula Fasseas Cancer Clinic is an example of their generosity. "Leadership is so important for women," Paula remarks. "We must strive to inspire others as we have been inspired by women in the past." ❧

Architect: Howard Holtzman **Landscape architect:** Carl Kominsky

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Opposite bottom: Nestled into the foothills of Arizona's Catalina Mountains, the Fasseas home, with its delightful patio and pool, melds with the surrounding landscape. **Right:** The Peruvian town of Cuzco is known for paintings that depict archangels in fanciful hats and costumes. In the guest bedroom, the painting that hangs above an 18th-century French bureau with a marble top is a reproduction. **Above:** Artisan touches fill the home, like this four-poster bed designed by New Orleans artist Mario Villa. **Above right:** Paula worked with artisans to create many of the wrought-iron elements in the home, such as the hand-hammered handrail on the stairs, which was crafted by local artist Chris Hill. **Opposite top:** Paula with daughter Alexis, son Drew, and their dog Wawa, a chihuahua mix, in the lobby of the PAWS Chicago Adoption & Humane Center.





center of attention

When Peter and Paula Fasseas brought their puppy, Phippen, home from Greece, their then-teenaged daughter Alexis decided to volunteer in a local animal shelter. Alexis was alarmed by the number of dogs being euthanized at the shelter, so she and Paula founded PAWS (Pets Are Worth Saving) in 1997, vowing to find a home for every orphaned animal in Chicago (the primary Fasseas residence).

Last year, Paula opened PAWS Chicago Adoption & Humane Center, also known as the Phippen Fasseas Adoption Center, a homelike setting with glassed enclosures that provides pets awaiting adoption with roomy spaces to roam and plush perches. Hopeful adopters fill out paperwork to ensure they snag the perfect pet for their habits. The result is 1,700 pets adopted in 2007 and 3,000 predicted for 2008.

Paula is determined to make Chicago a no-kill city within five years. For more information about the no-kill organization, spay/neuter clinic, and adoption center, visit pawschicago.org.

