

Bird of paradise

Considered by many to be the finest residence ever built in Arizona, this well-loved family home has risen like a phoenix from the desert

//

WORDS BY XENIA TALLOTIS



PHOTOGRAPHER

//

VILLA PARADISO
PARADISE VALLEY
ARIZONA
UNITED STATES
www.waltdanley.com



Villa Paradiso wasn't always the incomparable residence it is today. "It was a somewhat tired old property with heavenly views, which we thought would make a getaway home," says owner Robynn Sussman. "Our escape from the stresses of New York." But such were its charms that the more they visited, the less they wanted to leave, and when the adjacent lots became available to buy, that sealed the deal for a permanent move from the city to the desert. "We bought those, too, and started building and building until in 2005 we had our oasis: our paradise villa, which we almost can't bear to sell."

The Sussmans hired world-renowned architects, including Vernon Swaback, who trained under Frank Lloyd Wright, and acclaimed designers such as David Scott to create a residence that reflects their passions: art, film, nature, and travel. They sought inspiration from French Riviera mansions, Palladian villas of the Veneto, and graceful classical buildings in Palm Beach and New York. To exhibit their art collection, the Sussmans added a temperature- and humidity-regulated gallery with a hanging system that enables them to rotate the display of paintings without drilling walls.

"The design brief was for something unique and spectacular, contemporary and classic," says Scott. "First and foremost it had to be a warm family home,

but it also needed to be elegant and grand – the perfect venue for fundraisers and entertaining."

Considered by many to be the finest home built in Arizona, and now on the market with Walt Danley Realty, an affiliate of Christie's International Real Estate, once inside you're embraced by a double staircase in the light-filled rotunda – one side leading to the south wing, the other to the north. From there it's a dazzling exhibition of style and refinement, each room a showcase for some of the finest materials in the world. There are afrormosia floors, anigre, sapele, and walnut paneling and moldings, as well as golden-hued marble and onyx. Then there's the water room, an interior space that floats in an exterior pool – the ultimate in relaxation.

All this lies within a setting that calms the soul. Nestled in 12 acres of landscaped desert, thick with palm trees, citrus, and white, pink, and purple orchid trees, all surrounded by mountains – Camelback, the McDowells, and the Four Peaks – the property basks in sunshine and warm breezes throughout the year. Watching the sun set or rise from one of the spectacular terraces takes you as close to heaven as you're likely to get on earth.

//
Discover more about this special property, including further photography, at christiesrealestate.com/c25

A work of art: Villa Paradiso has been designed to provide a stunning space to display the owners' extensive art collection, and to make the most of its natural environment and breathtaking backdrop.

//
WITHIN
THESE WALLS

Villa Paradiso provides entertainment in all shapes and sizes: a 1,000-square-foot gym, a spa, an indoor basketball court, and an expansive lapis-blue, glass-tiled swimming pool, keep residents fit. And whether you're planning a quiet night in with the family curled up in one of the discreet living areas, a movie night with friends in the James Bond-themed theater, or an impressive fundraiser for 200 people, this home can host them all.



PHOTOGRAPHERS





Luxe living: With grand formal spaces, state-of-the-art technology, generous patios and leisure facilities, and a three-bedroom guesthouse, Villa Paradiso creates a resort-style experience for guests and residents alike.



//
WHERE IN
THE WORLD

A most exclusive part of the Phoenix metropolitan area, Paradise Valley has easy access to world-class resorts, restaurants, shopping, art and culture, golf courses, museums, botanical gardens, and the beautiful Sonoran Desert. And Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport is just a 15-minute drive away.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

