



Professional Builder

Million Dollar Delights

By Anne Patterson, Contributing Editor

When home buyers are ready to dole out more than \$1 million on the house of their dreams, you can bet the house, no matter the style, will fit the luxury profile.

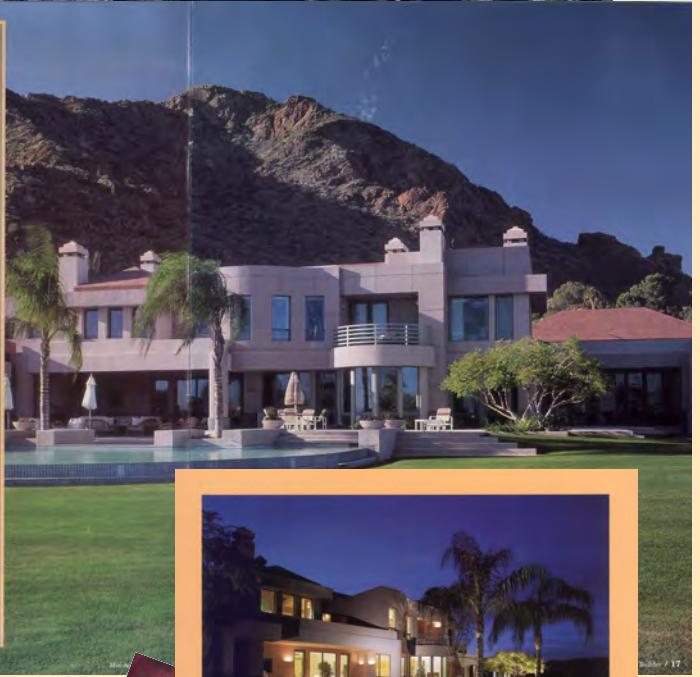
Whether in increased square footage, choice materials or custom amenities, houses in this distinctive category stand apart. The luxury designation is undeniable, and the architects and builders of these homes certainly are in a class by themselves.

The project starts with a desire, becomes a concept, translates to a design and in the end stands as a testament to the architect's design acumen, the builder's construction expertise and the homeowner's perseverance. Along the way, a series of decisions, details and compromises are discussed, agreed upon and executed. Custom houses of this caliber effect a certain synergy from all participating parties.

On the following pages, we present five \$1 million houses from all parts of the country. The houses show a broad range of styles with a diversity of construction details and design ideas. Please enjoy our most "expensive" feature of the year.

Builder Dick Felker regards this house as a work of art. Pyramidal roofs finished in hand-held cement set the tone of the mountains behind. The entire rear of the house opens up to the reflecting pool, several terraces, a swimming pool, and a spa. Across the lawn, Scottsdale can be seen in the distance.

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Designing a luxury custom home is like creating a work of art. It takes planning and time to create something that is beautiful and original. For The Empire Group, the design of Altair in Paradise Valley was like creating a 18,000 square-foot sculpture, set at the base of the Camelback Mountains.