

Barry A. Berkus

B³ ARCHITECTS
BERKUS DESIGN STUDIO

Master designer Barry A. Berkus is well-respected for his ability to interpret clients' visions into unforgettable architectural statements. Principal and founder of B³ Architects and Berkus Design Studio, he leads a talented team of professionals with a broad range of design expertise from custom and multi-family housing, resort clubhouses and communities, to urban infill, commercial, educational and land-planning projects. His firms have earned more than 400 design, planning and industry achievement awards during his 50 years of leadership. An international force with offices in Santa Barbara and Arizona, the studio's work can be seen throughout the United States and abroad.

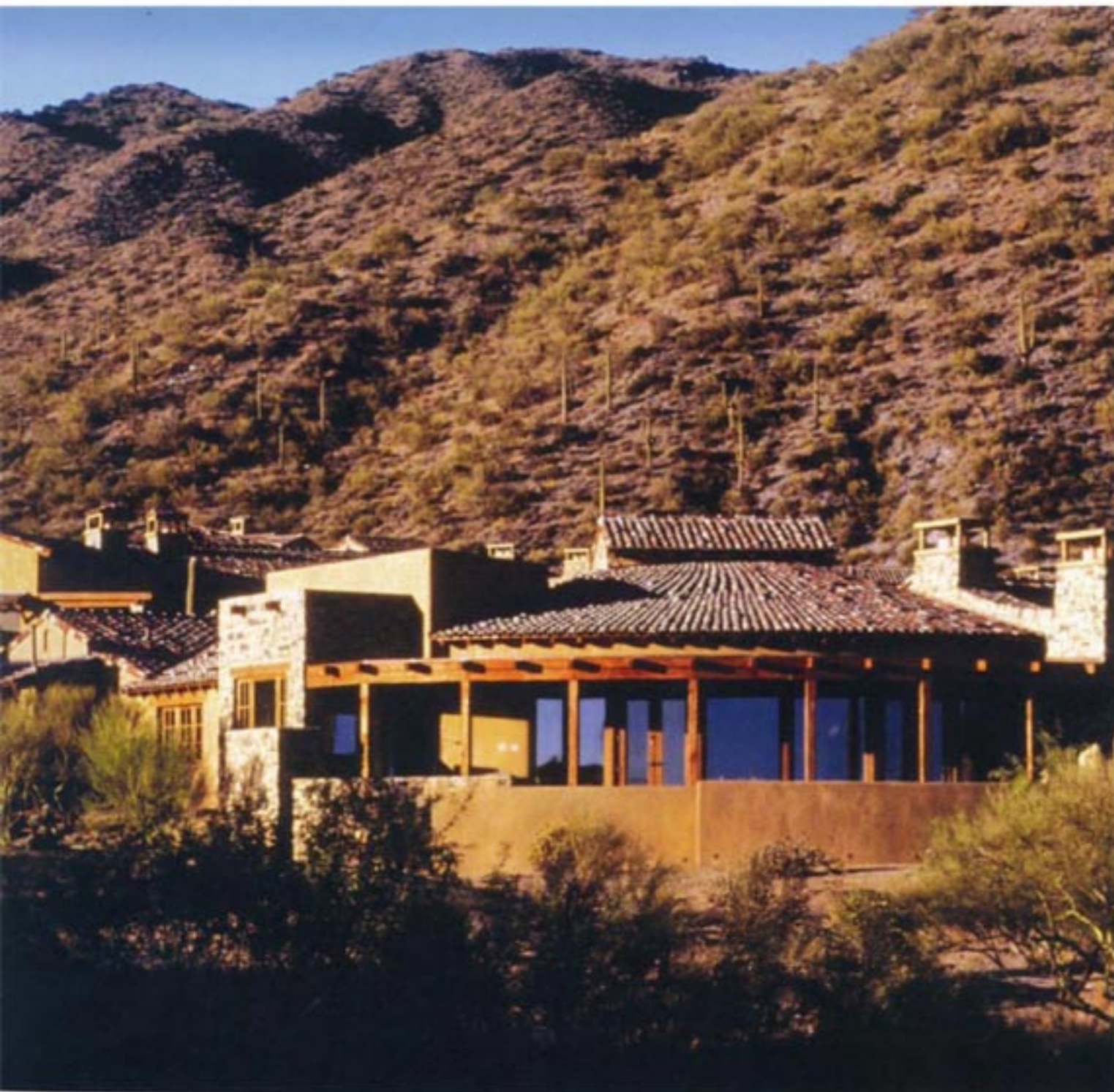
The foundation of Barry's custom design work revolves around the refuge of home. In each architectural undertaking, he sees the potential to create a portrait uniquely designed to embrace those who reside within. The firm begins the design process by listening intently to clients and delving into their personal vision of home. Clients are then asked to write a personal account of their vision. Barry refers to this creative process as "soul stimulation," a process that allows the design to emerge in alignment with the client's aspirations and lifestyle.

Although not defined by a single architectural genre, there is something compellingly memorable about a Berkus design. Barry's work deliberately parallels art in its approach to compositional elements and the visual experience of sculptural form. He uses his

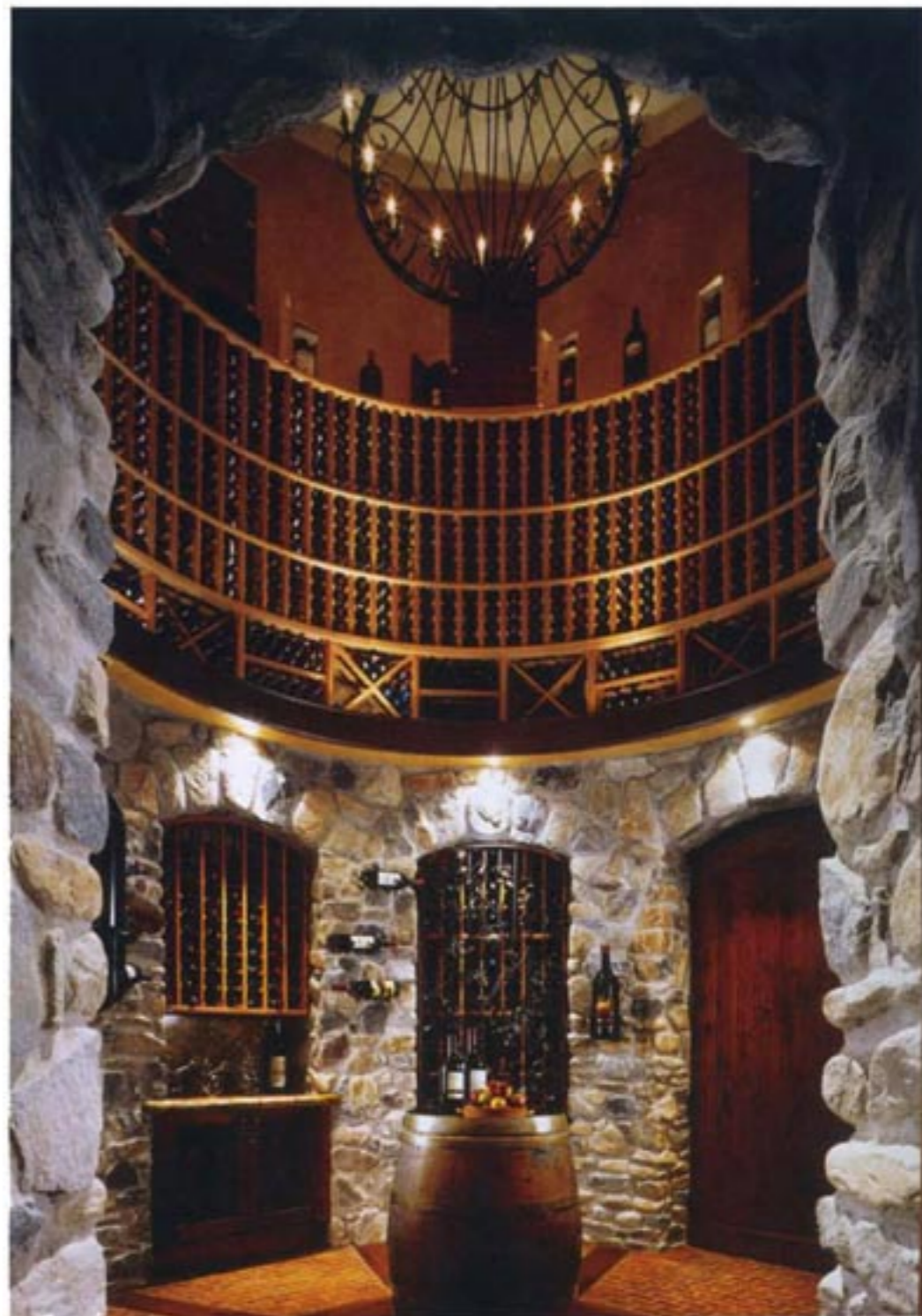


ABOVE:
The curvilinear gallery, acting as a main street connector to the destinations within, creates a central ribbon of circulation. Palm Desert, California.
Photograph by Farshid Assassi, Assassi Productions

FACING PAGE:
Color palette and geometric building forms blend this contemporary structure with its desert environs. Palm Desert, California.
Photograph by Farshid Assassi, Assassi Productions



ABOVE LEFT:
Hillside villas blend seamlessly with the desert mountain terrain. Chiricahua Villas, Desert Mountain, Arizona.
Photograph by Lawrence Anderson, Lawrence Anderson Photography



ABOVE RIGHT:
The stone wine tower invites one to engage in the discovery of that within. Chiricahua Golf Clubhouse, Desert Mountain, Arizona.
Photograph by Mark Boisclair Photography, Inc

FACING PAGE:
The rotunda dining room acts as a magnet for social dialogue as well as an architectural hinge, unifying its adjacent forms. Scottsdale, Arizona.
Photograph by Peter Malinowski, InSite Architectural Photography



artistic aptitude to create vibrant interior spaces, paying close attention to lighting, volume, massing and open space. Each element interacts with the changing patterns of light and dark throughout the day, resulting in a dynamic living environment.

In a time when entire regions seem to be sacrificing historical character to non-contextual design, it is rewarding to find an architectural practice with an unwavering commitment to acknowledging historical precedence. Abstracting from what has come before, the firm's body of work rethinks familiar traditions in a way that is meaningful to people today, enriching life's journey.

The Berkus custom residences featured on these pages pay tribute to the unique legacy of the desert region. Barry and his team of architects use authentic details and a material vocabulary that respects the context of place; modern aesthetics, clean lines and tactile finishes of adobe, massed composition of pueblo-style architecture, flat roofs with rounded corners, and other architectural detailing well-adapted to the desert climate.

His passion for building in harmony with the desert topography and nature—a complex environment filled with inspiration—is apparent in his work. The myriad moods and views of the desert landscape offer the perfect place for his contemporary and organic designs. His sensitivity to regional context, paired with his ability to turn dreams into reality through architecture, make Barry Berkus a true visionary.

Q&A

more about barry ...

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT BEING AN ARCHITECT?

I'm passionate about the creative process where ideas germinate and come to fruition—designing “art” for people to engage in, respond to and interpret. I am stimulated by learning, observing and creating architecture on a daily basis.

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT QUALITY OF RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE?

Architecture should create memories; be a destination. For example, visiting a blue mosque in Turkey, quaint alleys in France or courtyards in Provence—they call to you, beckoning your return after visiting. A home should be able to do that.

WHAT IS ONE THING THAT MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU?

When riding my bike I have design solutions come to mind and new, exciting ideas surface. I'm a dreamer who is rewarded most by making other people's dreams come true.

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