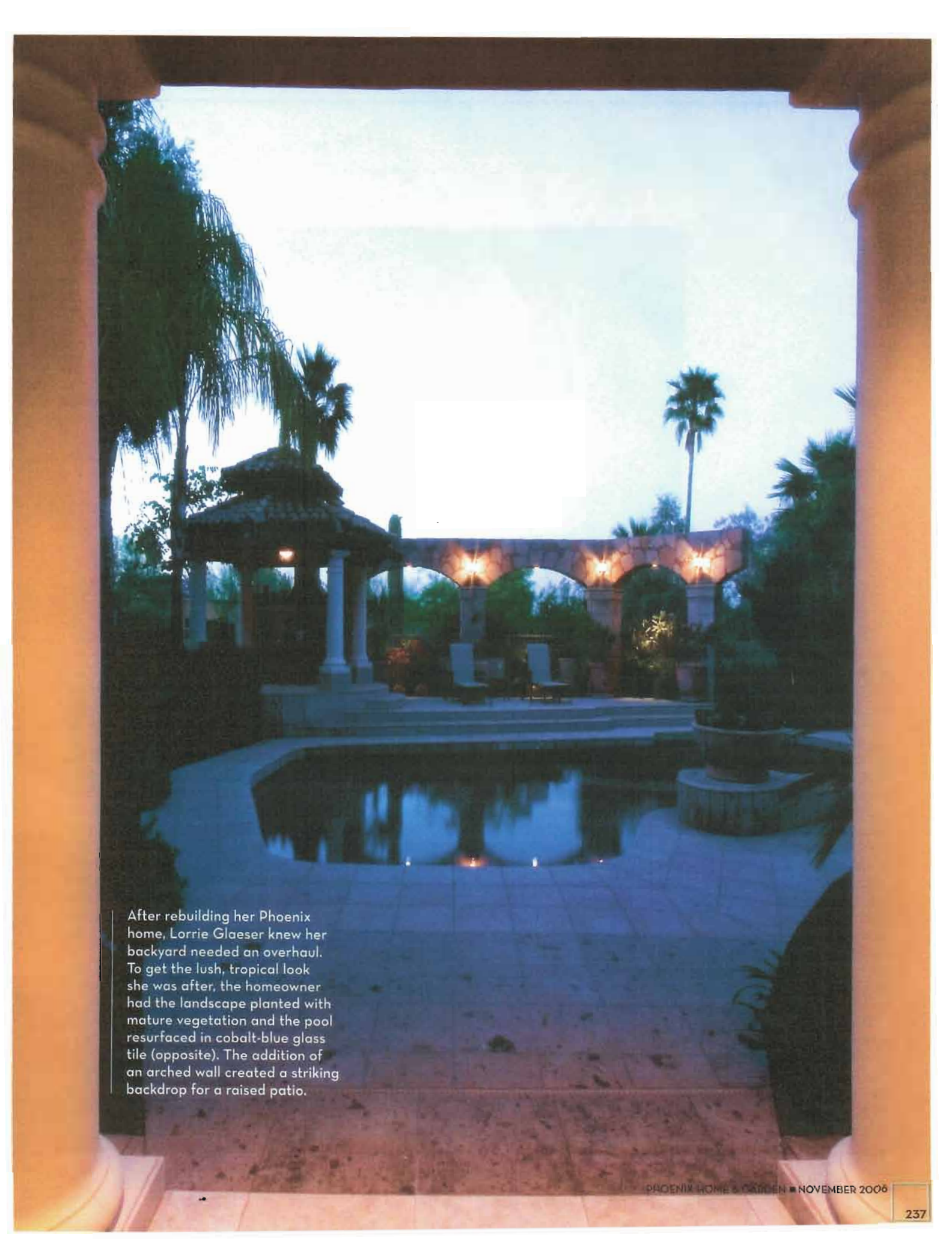


# Breaking Ground

A garden is  
resurrected from  
the rubble of  
construction

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After rebuilding her Phoenix home, Lorrie Glaeser knew her backyard needed an overhaul. To get the lush, tropical look she was after, the homeowner had the landscape planted with mature vegetation and the pool resurfaced in cobalt-blue glass tile (opposite). The addition of an arched wall created a striking backdrop for a raised patio.



hat started out as the renovation of a bedroom closet and dining room turned into something much bigger for Phoenix resident Lorrie Glaeser. Despite her initial intentions, the house ended up being torn down and rebuilt. In 2001, after work was complete, the homeowner realized that the debris-strewn landscape also would need to be redone.

Glaeser, who is an avid traveler, used pictures taken on trips to Mexico and Italy as inspiration for her Arizona garden. "I wanted a very lush landscape with a tropical resort atmosphere," she explains. "And I wanted an instant garden right from the start."

The homeowner collaborated with several design professionals to help her restructure the outdoor areas. Along with general contractor Mark Roberts, who worked on Glaeser's new home, stone and tile contractor Dan Henderson reconfigured the existing patio and added on new patio spaces. This opened the way for an outdoor kitchen/bar area that boasts a Viking barbecue, stainless steel cabinetry, and a ceiling fan that draws heat up and out through a square opening overhead.

Two of the most striking features in the yard are a dramatic-looking wall and a cobalt-blue tile swimming pool. Glaeser asked Henderson to re-create an arched wall she had seen at a hotel in Guadalajara, Mexico. Using rock, cantera and brick, he built the feature as a backdrop for the garden. Henderson then resurfaced the pool in iridescent glass tile, also from Mexico.

Nearby, a raised gazebo includes a log-burning fireplace. When



the weather is warm, candles and potted plants fill the hearth. The gazebo's roof is covered with three layers of handmade Mexican tiles, replicating a look common to homes south of the border.

To bring a verdant, tropical feel to the property, landscape architect Chad Robert incorporated specimen plants with showy flowers and foliage. Garden beds are filled with everything from Mediterranean fan palm and giant bird of paradise to canna, jasmine, bougainvillea and hibiscus. "We were going for a Puerto Vallarta look," he explains.

Robert also reworked the entry to the house to create "a new sequence of arrival." Instead of reaching the front door from a walkway via the driveway—a 2,000-square-foot expanse of slate—visitors now follow a meandering path that originates curbside. Robert says the addition of low walls and oversize flowerpots helps take the focus off the large driveway.

The homeowner, who has filled the yard with her own special touches, including a Buddha statue and other Zenlike accents, says the garden is a reminder of her many travels and the wonderful memories they evoke. ☐

**Above:** A stone statue of a meditating Buddha brings an element of tranquility to the backyard garden. **Opposite:** The sound of cascading water was created with the addition of a cantera waterfall at the edge of the swimming pool. The feature doubles as a pedestal for oversize flowerpots.



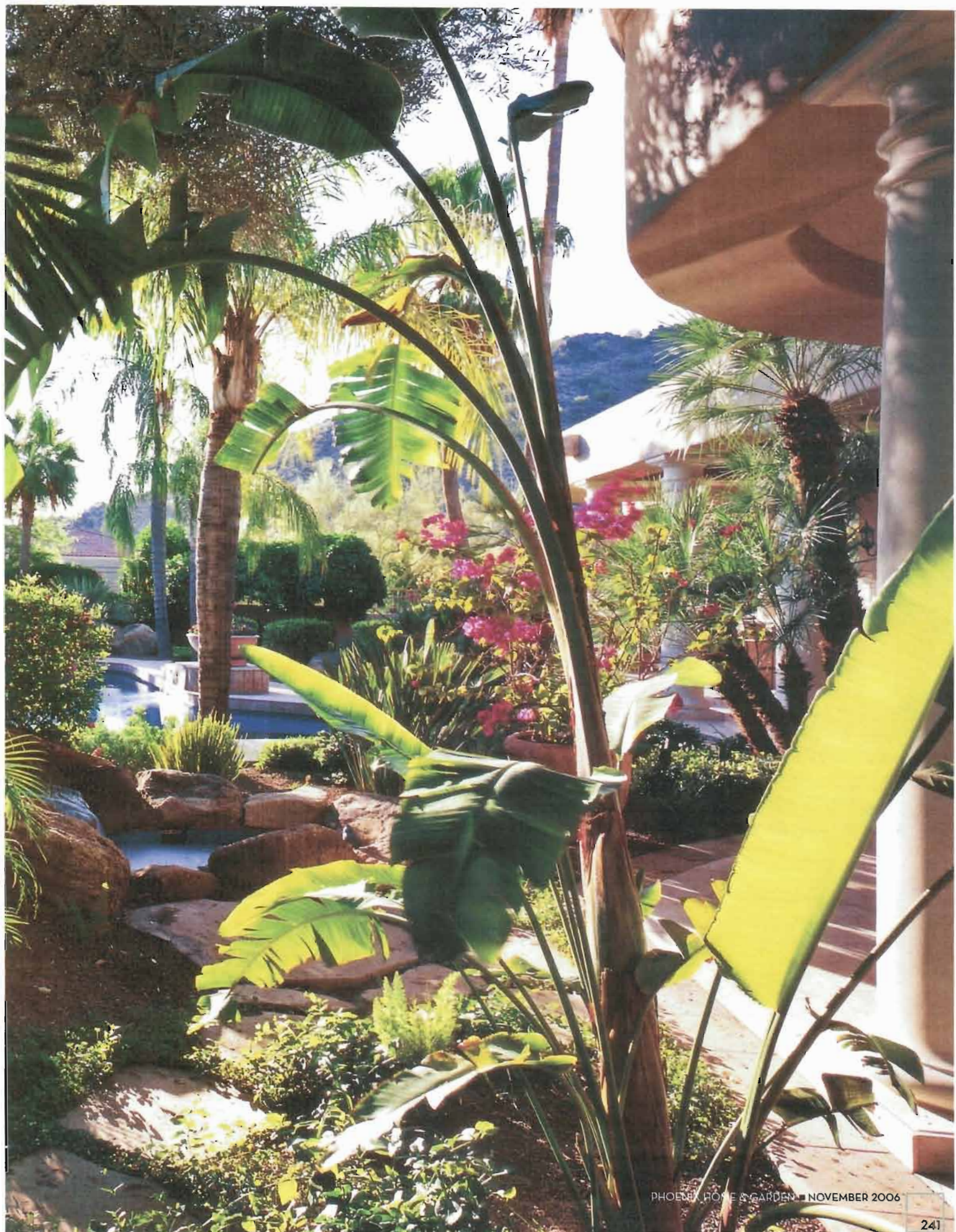




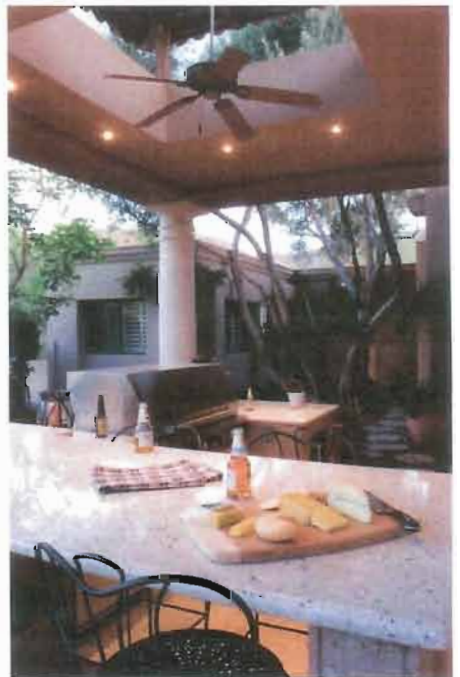


Tropical plants, including Mediterranean fan palms, Phoenix robellinii palms and olive trees, create a canopy of shade in the backyard. Landscape architect Chad Robert tucked a bouldered water feature into the garden and added steppingstones to form a path.













**Clockwise from opposite top:**

The newly reconfigured front entry includes curved planting beds, along with trees and vines, to help screen windows at the front of the house.

- A cantera-clad patio is enhanced by a raised gazebo, arched wall and large terracotta urns.
- A hibiscus flower in full bloom
- The outdoor kitchen features a ceiling fan designed to pull hot air out of the dining area.
- The red bract of a shrimp plant (*Justicia brandegeana*) resembles its common name.

See Sources, Page 326.