



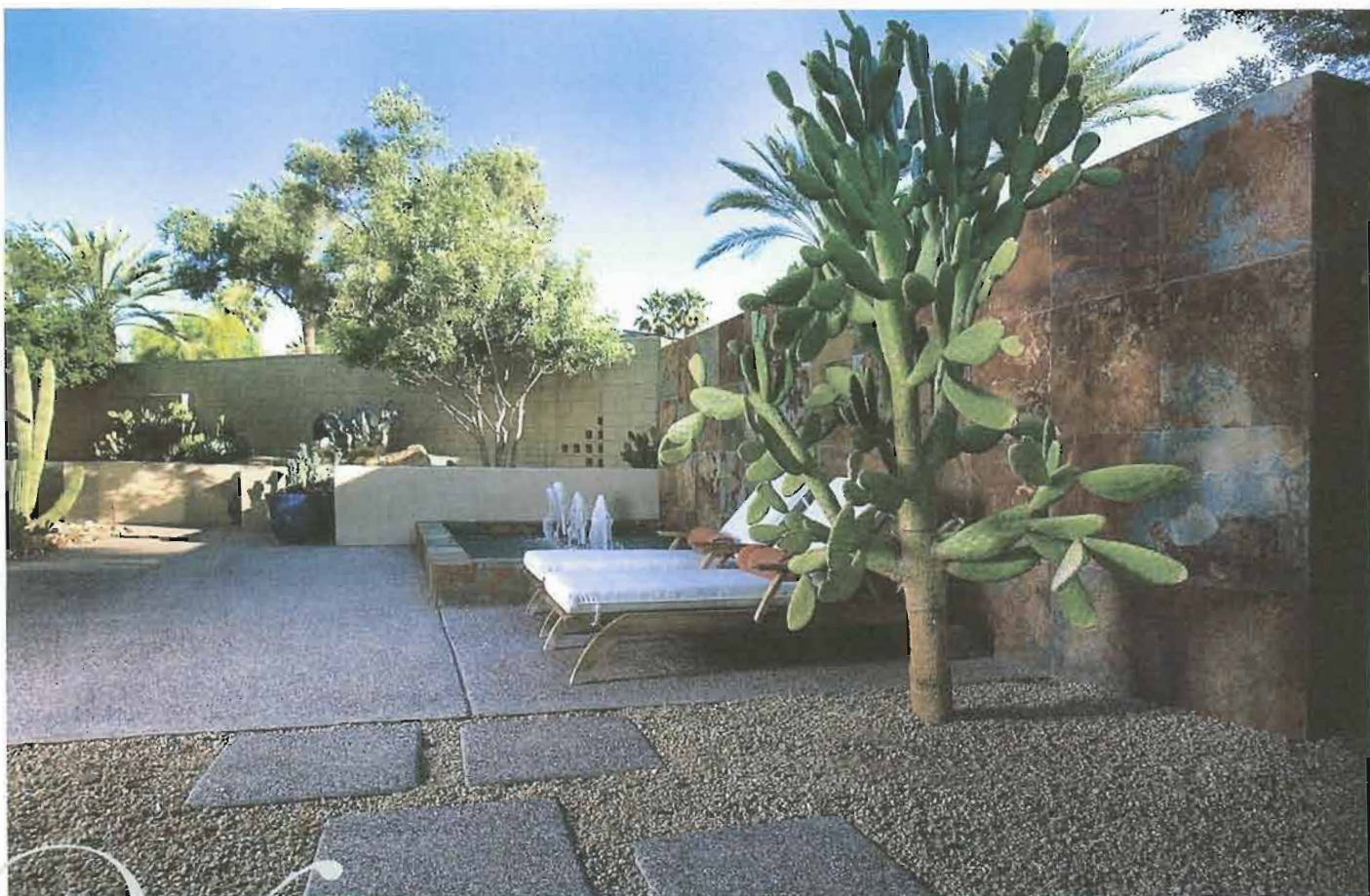
EAST MEETS SOUTHWEST

An unfinished landscape is
transformed into a tranquil setting

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A photograph of a modern outdoor patio. In the foreground, a large, weathered stone urn sits on a bed of smooth, dark river stones. The urn has a circular opening at the top with a decorative pattern. In the middle ground, a wooden sofa with white cushions and a matching armchair are arranged around a rustic, stone-top coffee table. A small black side table with a candle sits next to the sofa. The patio is bordered by a dark grey wall. In the background, there are palm trees, a black lamp post, and a building with a terracotta roof under a blue sky with light clouds.

This page: On the newly added front patio, water spills down the face of an antique stone urn and into a bed of Mexican beach pebbles before being recirculated. A simple plant palette, rusted steel gate, granite-top table and teak seating complete the scene. Left: A Santa Rita prickly pear cactus grows beside a stone head set in a raised bed.



When Keith Galbut bought his east Phoenix home in 2004, its backyard included a stunning wall of slate that served as a backdrop for a sparkling water feature. Rusted rebar fencing, exposed aggregate patio flooring, and raised planters filled with shapely cacti and succulents provided natural elements that drew the homeowner to the property and helped convince him to purchase it.

However, the only problem was that the rest of the landscape was unfinished. "Certain areas in the backyard were complete, and other areas had never been touched," he recalls. "My goal was to create a uniform and collected look that would connect the front and backyards and capitalize on the work that had been done by the previous owners." Galbut, a lawyer, envisioned a Contemporary desert landscape with an Asian bent—something relaxing yet fun.

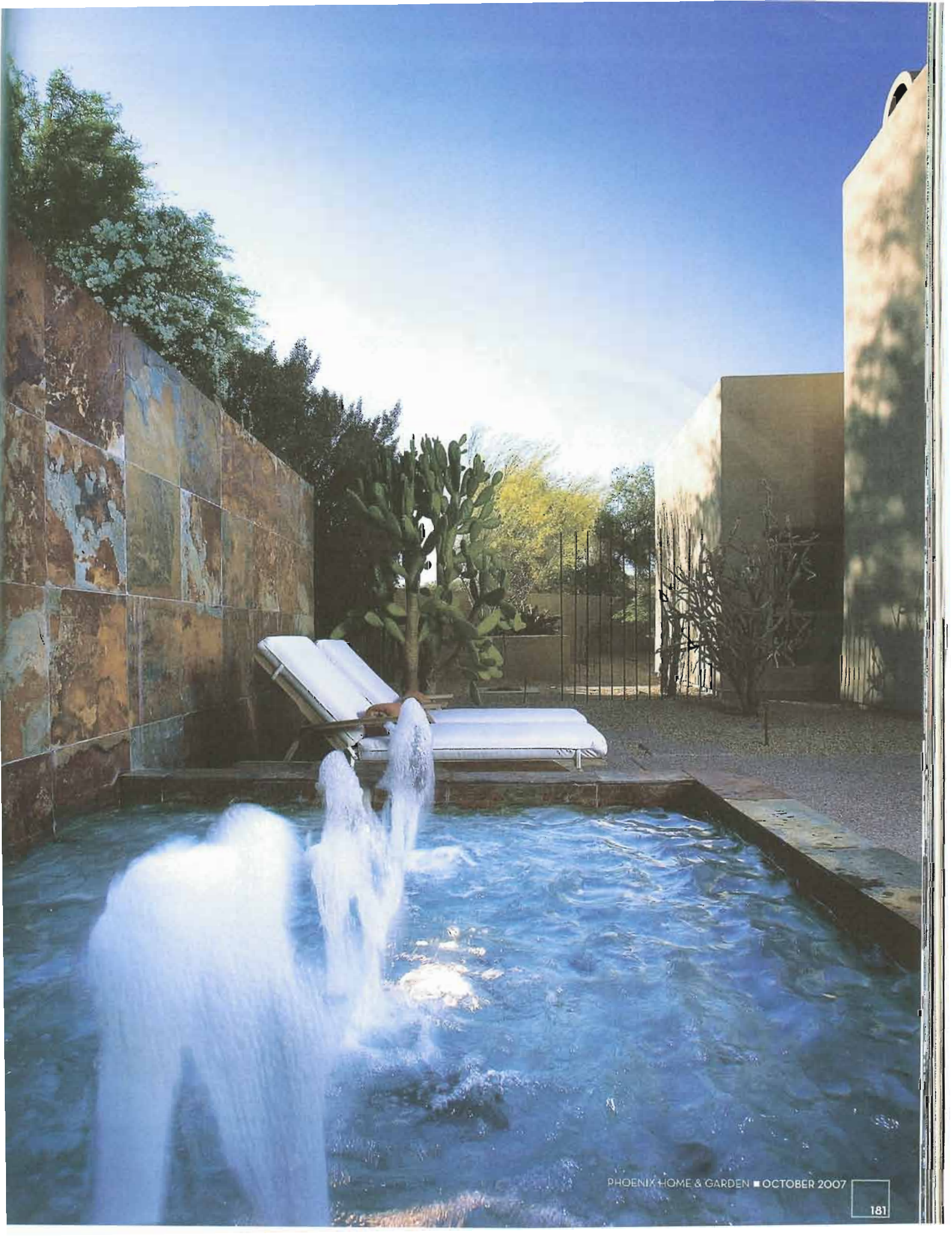
Landscape architect Chad Robert, who earlier this year was honored as a Phoenix Home & Garden Master of the Southwest, helped bring Galbut's vision to fruition. "Keith lives on a triangular-shape lot, and there were several areas that weren't being put to good use," Robert points out. His solution was to add a courtyard at the front of the house to welcome guests and set the mood for the rest of the property. In the back and side yards, he created distinctive outdoor rooms by incorporating plants, pathways and

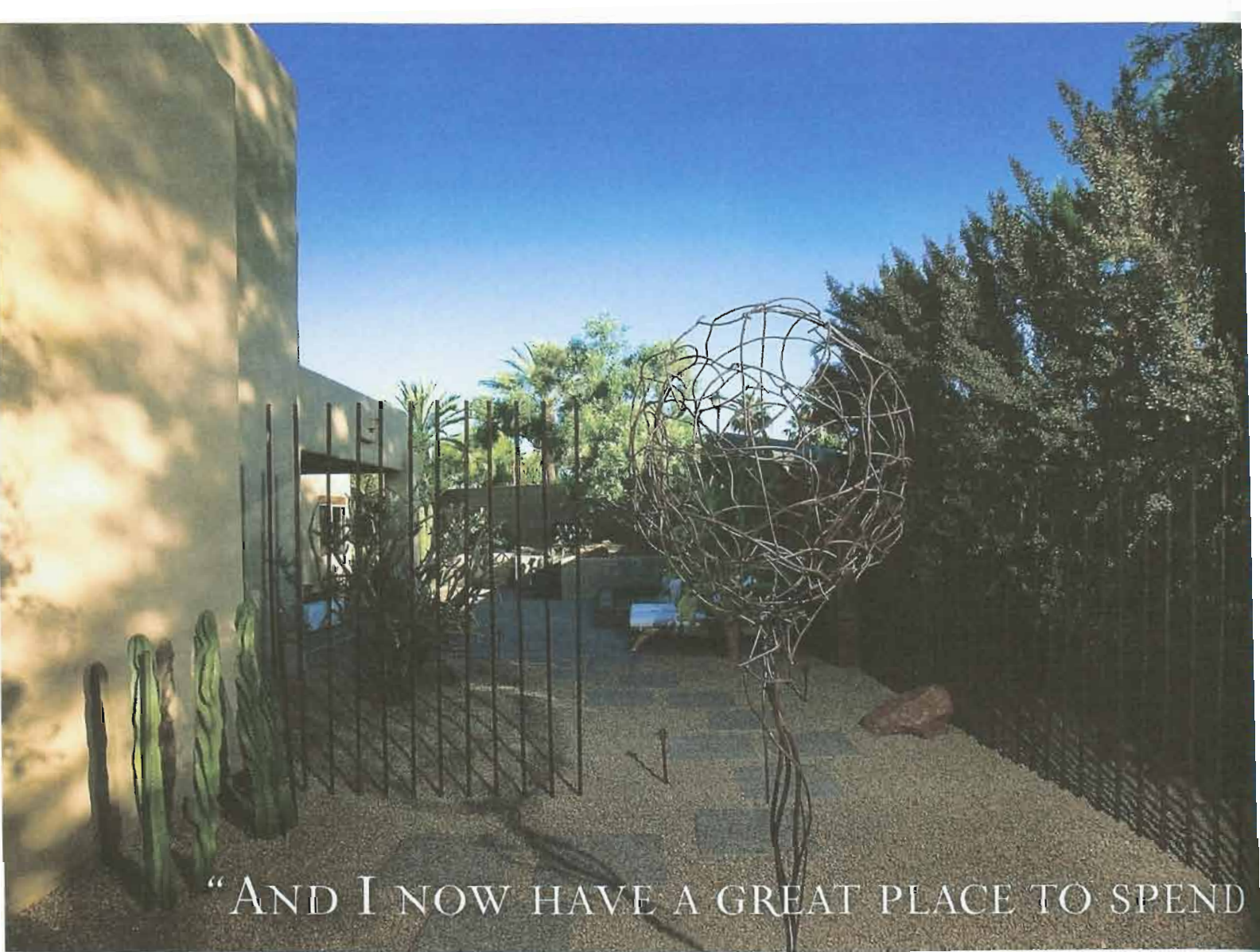
steppingstones. This allowed Robert to tie the landscape together visually, he explains.

Now, guests can wander the length of the yard and enjoy various open-air settings, including several for sitting, a place to barbecue, another to enjoy the sparkling water feature, and even a secluded spot in which to take an outdoor bath. With the addition of comfy lounge chairs dressed in white cushions, soft lighting, and art sprinkled throughout, the mood is magical.

"I really love how the landscape connects with the different areas of the home," Galbut remarks. "And I now have a great place to spend time and relax with friends and family." □

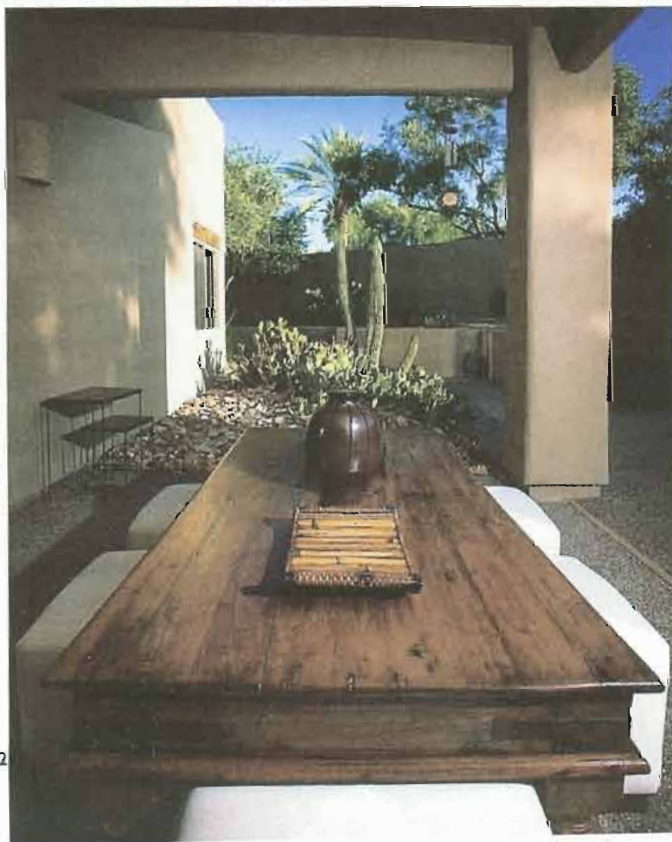
Above: The view toward the west reveals the main outdoor living area, located off the back patio. This portion of the yard was designed by Bob Thompson of a group before Keith Galbut purchased the property. Looking almost like a piece of art, an Indian fig prickly pear (*Opuntia ficus-indica*) shows off its tree-like shape. **Opposite:** Patterned slate tiles in varying shades of rust and butterscotch form a dramatic wall behind the water feature. Teak lounge chairs topped with white cushions add a spa-like ambience.

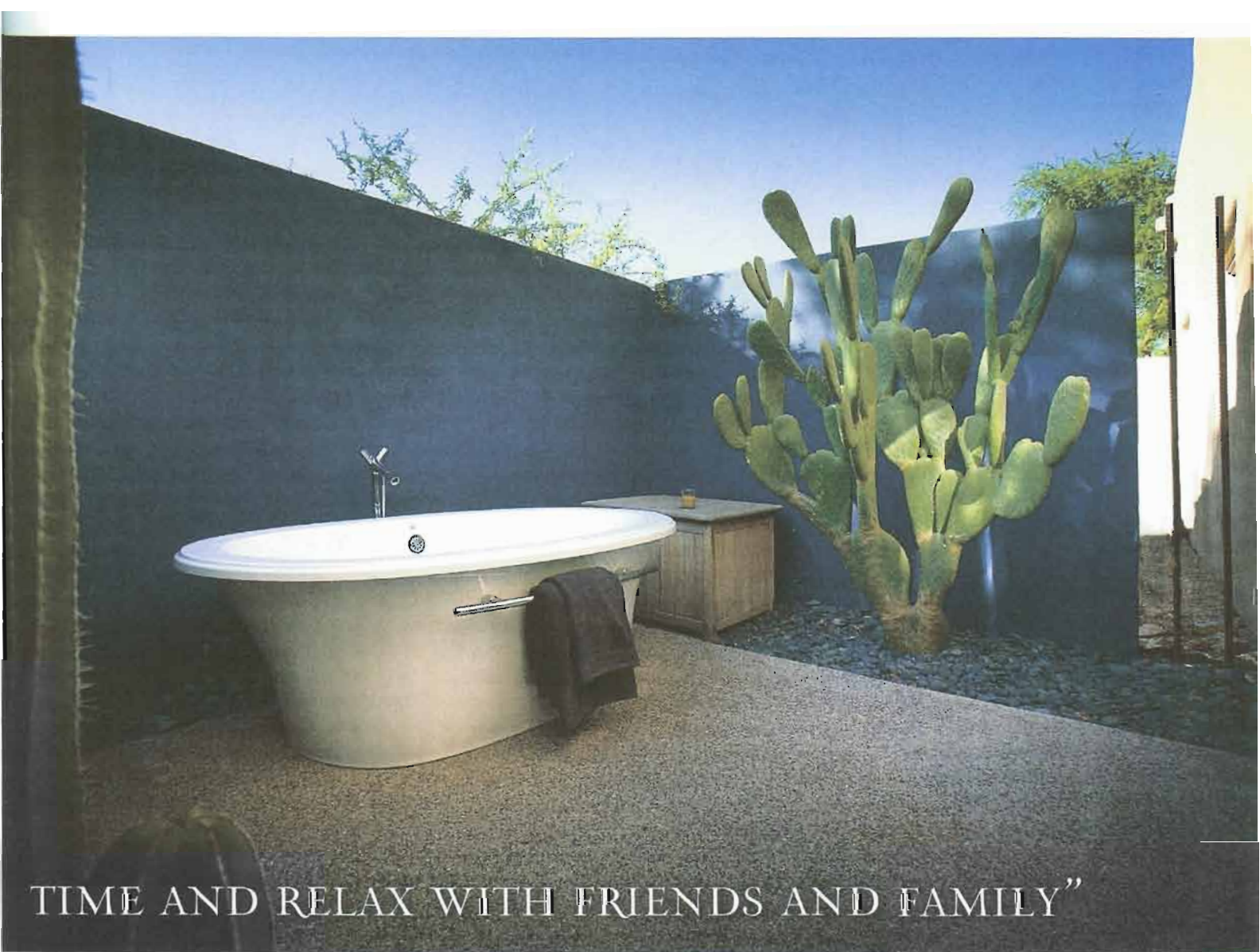




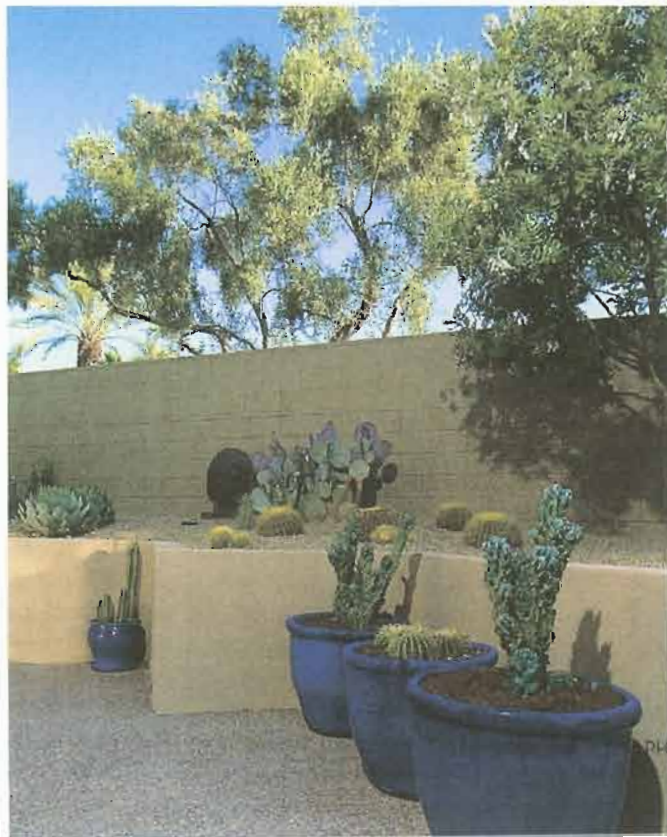
“AND I NOW HAVE A GREAT PLACE TO SPEND

Above: Such elements as steel rebar fencing and a metal work of art set the tone for the garden's minimalist style. A row of twisted *Cereus* cacti (*Cereus hildmannianus f. tortuosus*) against a wall repeats the linear lines of the fence. **Right:** Looking to create a Zenlike atmosphere on the backyard patio, Keith Galbut paired a low wooden table from India with six custom-made ottomans upholstered in white. An organ pipe cactus can be seen growing in the distance.





TIME AND RELAX WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY”



Above: A soaking tub beckons bathers to unwind under the stars. The homeowner painted the walls a deep shade of blue, a color that can be seen in pots and other accents throughout the garden. A spineless Santa Rita prickly pear in a bed of coarse granite produces dramatic shadows on the wall. **Left:** A planting bed zigzags past cobalt-blue pots filled with *Cereus peruvianus monstrosus* and golden barrel cacti.

See Sources.