

AZREAL ESTATE

NORTHWEST VALLEY



COOL HOME

Home's open spaces highlight Camelback Mountain views

Lisa Van Loo

Special to Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

Everything has a place at the Phoenix home where Jason and Karen Boyer live with their daughter, Kennedy, and two energetic poodles — Max and Zeus. And most of those places are out of sight.

The family's 4,000-square-foot ranch spreads across a third of an acre in a part of Phoenix that is just beyond Arcadia's neighborhoods but doesn't yet reach Paradise Valley's. And its clean interior lines and minimalist finishes make the most of a space that does everything it can to capture the home's remarkable views and uninterrupted living area.

"That's why we bought the house," Karen Boyer said of the home's east-facing view of Camelback Mountain, captured perfectly through a picture window in the family room.

Very little inside the home takes away from that view or the home's natural and enviable indoor-outdoor flow, with the exception of subtle but meaningful architectural and design touches. The most notable of those design elements is a consistent commitment throughout the home to utilizing sleek storage, from the kitchen to the living area to the bathrooms, which keep absolutely every-



The Boyer's front entrance incorporates a mix of wood, steel and glass, punctuating its modern style. BILL TIMMERMAN

thing out of sight.

Fashioned with minimal pulls, glossy white cabinets in the kitchen hide the usual kitchenware but also disguise the family's refrigerator and microwave, while darker cabinets in the living area keep clutter at bay and add vertical lines to a fireplace sandwiched between two sets of sliding glass doors.

"I don't like stuff," Jason Boyer admitted. "There's a place for everything."

Beyond the kitchen and living area, Boyer also made sure bathroom drawers included electrical outlets so any styling tool could be stowed easily without ever getting the chance to interfere with the clean, white countertops and resort-style aesthetic that monopolizes the

master bath. Adding to the modern feel in the master bath is a wall of glass, fogged to within inches of the ceiling, providing privacy while also offering a view of mature palo verde tree branches moving in the breeze on the other side of the glass.

That interaction with the outdoors carries throughout the home, which the Boyers purchased in 2006 and fully renovated a year later. And by "fully," they mean they flipped the orientation of the interior layout to best leverage the view of Camelback.

Where there is now a living area was a bedroom which, to the Boyers, didn't make sense. So after living in it for a year, they took an eight-month hiatus to a rental as the home was reconfigured to emphasize the living areas over its bedrooms.

"We put the space in the living area," Jason Boyer said. "The bedrooms aren't big. They're just right."

Visitors who enter the Boyer home from the front courtyard through an open slider may hesitate to remove their sunglasses, unaware of where the indoors begin and the outdoors end. That's because, directly across from that sliding door is a set of fully retractable sliding doors that lead to the home's

See HOME, Page 19

Home

Continued from Page 11

front yard, which is finished with a fire pit and patio area.

Those who enter through the home's true front door, a glass and steel-framed oversized door, feel its open space due to a low ceiling at the entry that gives way immediately to vaulted ceilings.

"It is intentional, for sure," Jason Boyer said of the entryway. "Frank Lloyd Wright mastered that move a long time ago."

To add warmth to the home's living area, which primarily embraces light neutrals and modern, legacy furnishings, the Boyers incorporated subtle lighting that allows them to avoid using harsh, overhead lighting. Cabinets are backlit to the ceiling in the kitchen and living area, while a triangular soffit above the kitchen's bar area incorporates backlighting that offers a nice complement to a singular pendant over the living area's dining table.

To add to the intentional companionship throughout the home between the indoors and outdoors, exterior walls find their way inside — like the powder room wall finished in Venetian plaster only because it started that way outside. An accent wall in the master suite borrows that same philosophy, echoing the same plum color used on the exterior half wall that encloses a patio



A fogged garage door adds privacy without taking away from the home's open feel. BILL TIMMERMAN

directly outside of the master, separated only by a retractable glass door.

"The whole inside-outside connectivity is what we were trying to achieve," Jason Boyer said. "You can sit anywhere in the house and see all the way through the house."

And if you look far enough down the home's main hallway, you can see past its second master suite and

its glass-enclosed multi-purpose room (used currently as a small home gym) into the breezeway that leads to Karen Boyer's office, where she meets with design clients. The dainty workspace is made to feel more spacious by incorporating a predictable, retractable glass door — keeping on theme with the rest of the home.

"All of the outdoor spaces are just really important to the house," Jason Boyer said.