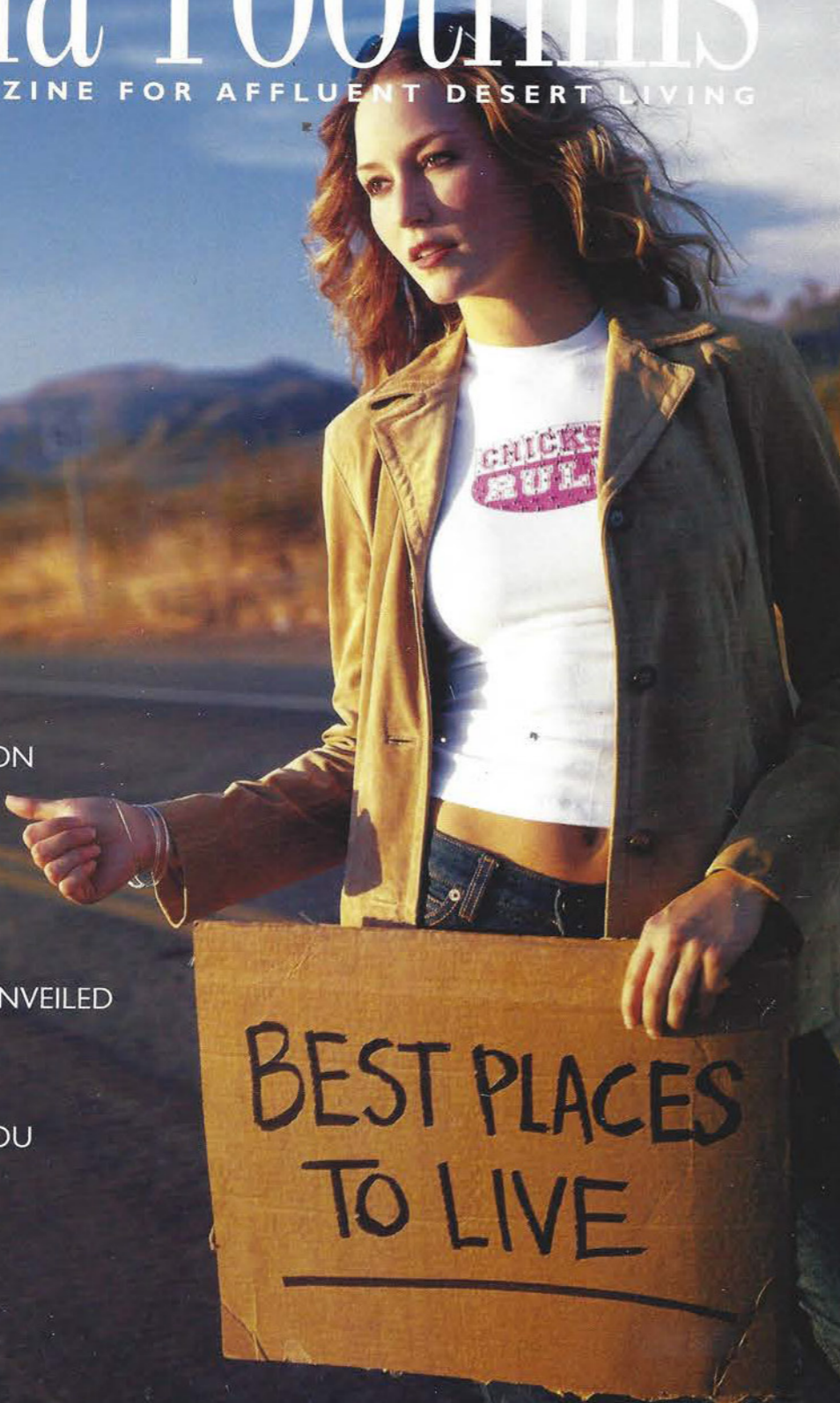


Arizona Foothills

THE LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE FOR AFFLUENT DESERT LIVING



WE'RE #6!

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE THE SIXTH-LARGEST CITY IN THE NATION

INSIDER SECRETS:

CONCIERGES REVEAL THEIR FAVORITE LOCAL HOT SPOTS

CURTAINS UP—

THE PERFORMING-ARTS SEASON UNVEILED

SO MANY ERRANDS, SO LITTLE TIME

GET YOUR TO-DOs TO COME TO YOU

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Edited by Karen Flake Werner

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From your palm to your pocketbook, discover how a PDA can simplify your life.

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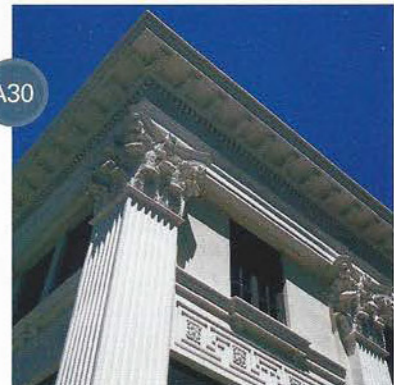
The therapeutic effects of essential oils have been known for thousands of years. Find out how you can make this ancient practice your own.

By Brooke McKinley

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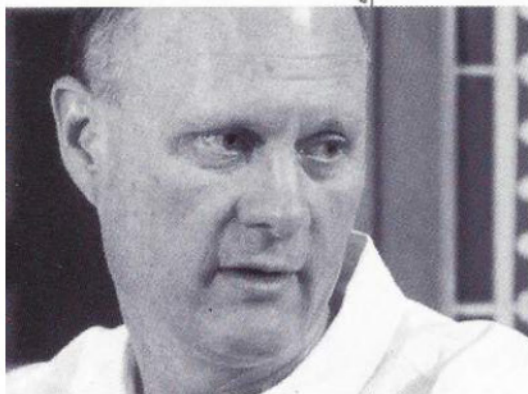


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ARCHITECTS' ROUNDTABLE



RON MCCOY



MARWAN AL-SAYED



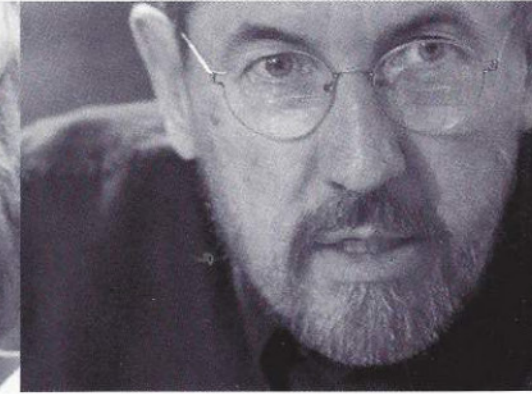
WENDELL BURNETTE



JACK DeBARTOLO JR.



CHRISTINE TEN EYCK



WILL BRUDER

Arizona Foothills Magazine assembled some of the Valley's most distinguished architects and asked what's important to them. The discussion soon turned to the city and the public realm—and to what the Valley needs to truly come of age.

EDITED BY KAREN FLAKE WERNER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CASSANDRA TOMEI
LOCATION: THE ROYAL PALMS HOTEL AND CASITAS



WENDELL BURNETTE

Burnette's architectural education has largely consisted of independent study at home and abroad. His apprenticeship training included three years at the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture. Burnette has earned many honors, including the 1999 Emerging Voice Award by the Architectural League of New York. Today, he runs Wendell Burnette Architects in Phoenix.

BRUDER: I think that factor is more important than any building that's been done in the past 25 years, because it's totally significant to this place maintaining its identity. When I sit in my fourth-level studio in downtown Phoenix, and I'm looking across the tops of all these trees that have been harvested, that's a magical thing. I mean, there's a chance that this place can find its identity, and that's very encouraging.

McCOY: So you're saying that the movement in landscape to reclaim natural plants and specimens was important for the community to recognize the unique quality of the place?

BRUDER: Huge. The fact is that 15, 20 years ago, there was no boxing of desert trees. The indigenous plant movement is really a brand-new thing.

AL-SAYED: I've always felt that we have the opportunity to develop an aesthetic. The plants here are so unique and visually compelling that a whole movement could create something that would be singular in the world. We're on that path, but I don't think we're there yet.

BRUDER: The downside right now is this idea of no-maintenance landscaping. It's a misnomer.

TEN EYCK: That's true. The cities have to invest in maintenance, that's all there is to it. There has to be that love of what it does for your city, and you have to take care of it. What I wish we could do is go back to the early 1900's, when everyone in the country called this place the City of Gardens. Every canal was lined with trees. I wish we could reinvent that.

BURNETTE: That leads to this issue of respect for what's important. Some influential people in Phoenix said, 'We're not going to line Central Avenue with citrus trees; we're going to line it with palo breas. We're going to give this city an identity.' But then these palo breas aren't being maintained in areas where it's more important to see the AM/PM gas station. There's no enforcement from a cultural perspective that says, 'This is important.' The same goes for some of the city's buildings that lent it character and are now being erased. The development concerns take precedence over respect for the culture.

DeBARTOLO: The community really needs to be more sensitive to the reinforcement of place. What are we doing to bring and reestablish the sense of context and character? I think that's the big picture in Phoenix.

TEN EYCK: It would be great if cities thought of themselves like planned communities. Everybody thinks I've kind of sold out by working with Del Webb in Anthem, but I have to tell you that nobody cares more about the landscape than that developer. Nobody cares more about parks and ways to draw people in.

BRUDER: We have to put value on what is valuable. Right now, we have a false sense that because it's old—pre-WWI or pre-WWII—it's important. It would be really neat for students to do an evaluation of interesting buildings every semester and give the owners a little certificate. It doesn't mean it's protected forever, but just that it's worth something. We have this misconception that stuff from the 60's and 70's is garbage.

McCOY: You're absolutely right. There's an incredible history in the middle-ground buildings. They're not great architecture, just generic everyday buildings. All the garden-office buildings and some of the housing, you go around and you just sort of discover them, and they're gorgeous. Part of what's killing those is the economy of scale. The contemporary economy of building development doesn't value the smaller scale.

DeBARTOLO: We can sit around this table and talk, but we need a consistent voice. We need someone who talks about all the issues we've brought up so far, who can articulate them in words that the public can get behind. That's going to be the critical issue, to communicate that and link with the community. Maybe this can be the birth of a voice.

AL-SAYED: But I think the big issue is development and developers, because that's the fundamental reality of what's driving this place.