

# OUTDOOR LIVING

## BETH & STEVE BUNGER

by Michelle Burgess • Photos by Scott Mitchell

For Steve and Beth Bunger, planning their west Chandler house and stunning backyard was a two-year labor of love. So important was the pool to the Bungers and their three children that they designed the house around it. Far from seeing the pool simply as a tool to help them endure blistering summers, the family views it as a year-round gathering place.

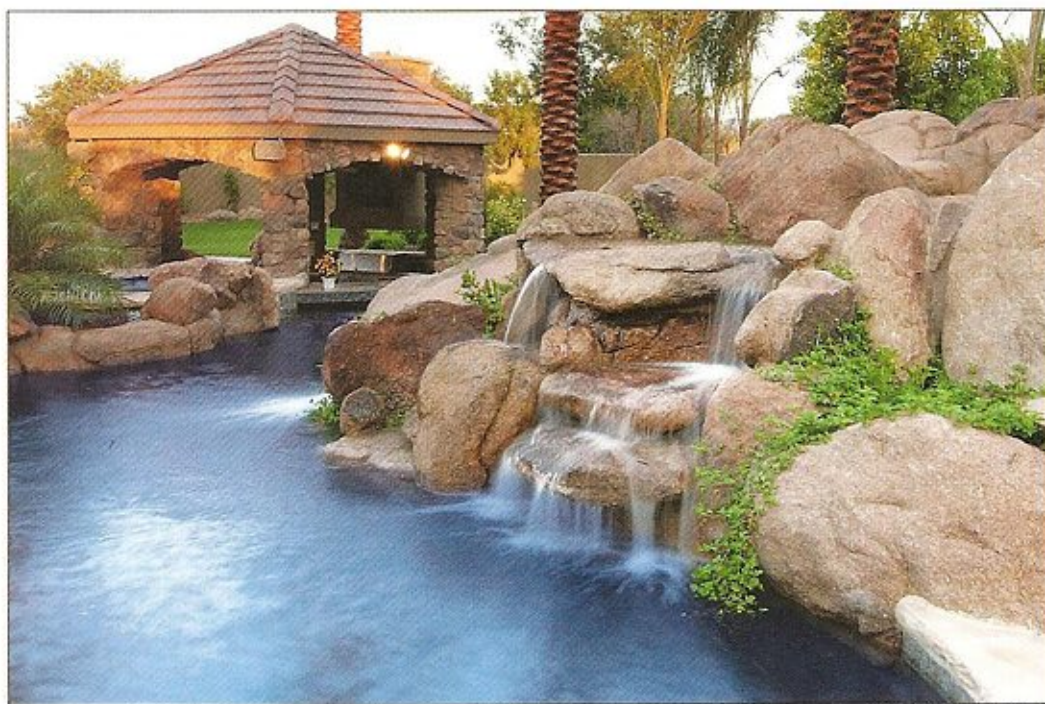
"In the summer our kids are in the pool or on the trampoline all of the time, and we occasionally heat up the pool in the wintertime for family events," says Steve Bunger, who has lived in Chandler for six years. "It seems like we end up outside on the back patio every time we have friends over. You can sit outside next to the fireplace and just relax, or you can have a party with things for everyone to do, kids to adults."

The Bungers turned to Kathy MacCleary of New Homes Design to turn their priorities—a house that was livable and good for kids and entertaining that offered a view of the pool and waterfall from the entryway, plus a walk-out basement—into reality. The job of coordinating all the subcontractors was handed to Jon Wall of JM Wall & Development, whose company specializes in building custom homes in the southeast Valley.

Also on board was Buzz Ghiz, president of Paddock Pools, who set the Bungers up with one of his designers. Bunger describes the finished product as "a free-form pool that looks natural yet is very functional for a family," with waterfalls, jumping rocks, slide, island spa, sunken gazebo and swim-up bar. Sonoran Landesign took care of the play area, putting green, sunken trampoline and tropical-feel foliage desired by the family.



Bunger concedes that the project was long, complicated and taxing at times, but has no doubts that the end result was worth the time and effort. "The only problem now is that we have someone—at least one of our kids' friends—sleeping over every weekend," he jokes. "But really, it turned out even better than we had hoped for."



An oasis complete with a spa (above) swim-up bar and waterfall (left) awaits visitors.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PADDOCK POOLS