



SOUTHWEST

Whether it's a modern or classic southwestern style clients desire, this design/build team rises to the challenge of creating custom desert hardscapes.

By Jenny Boyle, regional editor

Paul Connolly has always liked creating beautiful spaces for people to enjoy. In fact, he had his own design/build company years ago. When he decided that running the business left him little time to do what he really enjoyed, he gave it up and joined the design/build team at Sonoran Gardens, Inc. Through his work with the company, he has created many unique “backyard paradises” for residents in and around Tucson. Here, we take a look at three of his favorites.

Tri-Level Treasure

The owners of this southwestern home wanted their expansive backyard to be a place for entertaining. Connolly was lucky enough to work on the landscape of the home before it was built and his participation made all the difference in the finished

design. “I got to have input on the driveway, the perimeter walls and the elevation of the pool,” he says. “We had a clean slate.”

The client had requested a lot of paving for their entertainment purposes and they really liked flagstone, so Connolly used their suggestions in the hardscape. The backyard had a natural slope, and he was able to work with that to create three different levels. “We didn’t want it to look bland when it was just the two of them out there,” he says. “The elevation allowed us to create subspaces.”

When construction began on the backyard, the perimeter wall was built slightly different than the plan specified, so the team accommodated by modifying the perimeter wall. They also had to build around the axis point that the homebuilder had set for the driveway. “That always kind of happens,” says Connolly. “Sometimes it’s hard to work around stuff, but it wasn’t really a problem in this case.”

There were also issues with the drainage that had to be addressed. “The builder had day-lighted the down spouts and had run them through the patio columns,” says Connolly.

