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**K&I HOMES, LLC**  
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"BLOCK APPEAL" PAGES 184-193



## ■ BLOCK APPEAL ■

WRITTEN BY **BRIELLE M. FERREIRA**  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **MICHAEL BAXTER**

IF THE OLD ADAGE THAT THE FAMILY THAT PLAYS TOGETHER, STAYS TOGETHER, IS TRUE, THEN KRISTJAN AND INGA SIGURDSSON AND THEIR SMALL BROOD HAVE CERTAINLY FOUND THE KEY TO SUCCESS. Their sprawling Arcadia home features a half-sized basketball court, regulation-length backgammon board, 60-foot lap pool and several built-in trampolines that dot the landscape in a flurry of activity. But what then of the family that toils together? As the Sigurdssons have discovered: Sometimes that works, too. And after running their architecture and interior design business together

<b>ARCHITECTURE</b> Kristjan Sigurdsson, K&I Homes, LLC		
<b>INTERIOR DESIGN</b> Inga Sigurdsson, K&I Homes, LLC		
<b>HOME BUILDER</b> Alex Westwood, A. Westwood General Construction		
<b>BEDROOMS</b> 4	<b>BATHROOMS</b> 4	<b>SQUARE FEET</b> 5,360



**FAMILY FUSION**  
In the living room, a black leather sectional from Phoenix's Copenhagen Imports rests atop a black-and-white modern rug by Monti for a family gathering spot that is both accessible and stylish.



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over the course of 23 years, the husband-and-wife Icelandic team, of K&I Homes, LLC, in Phoenix, has it down to a science. The trick is in knowing when to compromise. “I gave her free reign on the last house we built together, which is in Iceland. I didn’t get involved much,” Kristjan laughs. “So, on this one, she let me have my way.”

Perhaps the biggest telltale sign that the home is a man’s haven is the sophisticated gadgetry that Kristjan and the couple’s two sons have at their fingertips. The family room is wired with a sophisticated entertainment system, while an elaborate security network, surround sound, a digital satellite music player and the lighting are all controllable via a handheld remote. But Kristjan went far beyond that, installing an 18,000-watt solar power system to lessen the home’s environmental footprint, as well as ultraviolet hospital-grade filters, humidifiers and precise humidity and temperature control stations to protect the health of his family. For all the technical elements, however, the home is very much a monument to comfort and casual livability.

**MATERIAL GLAM**  
The same limestone used throughout the interiors has been sandblasted to stand up better to the elements on the exterior of the home, joining integrally colored stucco and redwood panel accents in defining the façade.



**STYLE SELECTION**

With an elevated flame set atop a solid plinth, this portable fireplace makes for distinctive lighting in both indoor and outdoor spaces. *Tower*, \$3,700; [ecosmartfire.com](http://ecosmartfire.com)



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Instead of a lumbering residence that would sit like a behemoth amidst its ranch-style neighbors, Kristjan designed a contemporary two-story home that makes up for size with discriminately chosen materials and finishes. “I wasn’t interested in square footage,” he explains. “I wanted to condense everything we needed, and pool all of my resources and focus into the quality of the finishes. I wanted to create a modern house that was warm and cozy.” As a result, the simple lines and open floor plan Kristjan envisioned embrace the palette of Italian limestone, dark-stained wood flooring and cabinetry, and glass tile that he selected to echo throughout the interiors and decorate the home’s façade.

No detail was overlooked, from the 25-foot-high privacy water wall on the patio to the matching custom-made desks in the loft. So, it is no surprise that Kristjan gravitated toward a home builder whose standards were as exacting as his own. While Kristjan kept a close watch and maintained an active role in the project’s progress, Alex Westwood of Peoria’s

**GREEN CUISINE**

Dark, coffee-colored maple cabinetry from NYLoft in Scottsdale gives the kitchen a refined, contemporary air, while CaesarStone countertops reaffirm the Sigurdssons’ commitment to the environment.



**GREAT ESCAPE**  
Kristjan's favorite part of the home, the loft area boasts custom-made oak desks for the couple and original artworks by local talents at the Phoenix Art Group, as well as some Salvador Dali lithos.



**CLEAN SWEEP**  
In the master bathroom, dark-stained maple and Bisazza glass mosaics are the perfect example of Kristjan's dream for the home: high-quality materials lending unmistakable elegance to uncomplicated, powerful lines.



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A. Westwood General Construction tackled the messy work, supervising the subcontractors and ensuring every job was executed to specification. “It’s a different house for this market,” Kristjan explains, “so some of the subs were a little scared. It took us over six months to find somebody who was willing to handle the spiral staircase out back.”

While Inga gladly surrendered the reigns to her husband for the home’s design, she asserted her influence on the interiors with groupings of Danish furniture and contemporary art from local talents. She kept the color palette simple and designed for comfort, while keeping an eye on style, lending interest to spaces with textures and patterns that complement but do not overwhelm her husband’s sleek vision. All in all, the home is a family venture that went off without a hitch, but that doesn’t mean it’s not still nice to steal some moments alone. “I spend a lot of time in the loft upstairs. It opens up over the living room and is very light and airy,” Kristjan says, and then adds laughing: “Plus, the kids don’t really go up there too much!” **L**

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