

# PV bachelor sports pad scores high

*a home married to the single life*

By David M. Brown



Photography by Scott Sandler

“I enjoy watching sports and having guests over . . .”

—Steve Howard

Street view of the Howard house and its front circular drive

Steve Howard has definitely padded his bachelor existence. So much so, that none of the nubile young women who regularly enjoy the swim-up bar and slide in the backyard of his Paradise Valley home may ever convince him

of the joys of connubial living.

After all, the 34-year-old mortgage professional is already happily married to a romantic domiciliary equivalent—a 5,752-square-foot home with a four-car garage, 1,151 square feet of covered patio and roof deck and enough “guy” amenities to party

until his testosterone tames and middle-age roars.

“We thought 8,390 square feet under roof would be just right to give Steve the spaciousness he needs without burdening him with a high-maintenance mansion,” says Nick Tsontakis, AIA, principal of



View of main entry with pivoting door

Scottsdale's Nick Tsontakis Architecture & Interiors.

The Howard bachelor pad includes three bedrooms plus a study and 4½ baths. The master bedroom and study are finished with 5-inch-wide Brazilian cherry strip flooring, and the master bath includes a jetted tub and double-shower-stall steam room. Additionally, Tsontakis created a light court at the interior of the home; a circular entry hall with clerestory windows; a kitchen with a breakfast nook; a wine room; and a two-level home theater finished in stippled faux by Paula Rowley of Phoenix, who also fauxed the guest bath and various niches. In addition, Tsontakis and Howard plan a guest house on the property, adjacent to the pool.

View of entry hall with clerestory windows, with Travertine flooring and dining room in background

## Starting it up in the Garage

The existing home was an uninspired 1970s vintage Paradise Valley home—2,864 square feet with a three-car garage on one acre. For permitting, the town called this a remodel, as Tsontakis and Tom Derryberry, president of Scottsdale's Ultimo Custom Homes, retained as much of the original foundation as possible and razed most of the structure. The three garages were left in place and expanded for the additional bay and an exercise room. "In this way, we could refrain from filling up the landfills with more concrete that otherwise was in good shape," says Derryberry, who builds about four customs a year, mostly in Paradise Valley, Scottsdale and north Phoenix.

Tsontakis, with signature flair for the unconventional and architecturally engaging, created a design that is contemporary yet inviting, with numerous relaxing spaces to accommodate Howard's love for entertaining his friends and watching sports.





View of great room/game room with black concrete fireplace and butt glazing

## Out of Sight! (and Never out of Sound)

Premier Sight and Sound of Spokane, Wash., has Steve Howard wired.

The Howard home includes whole-house audio/video, multi-zone audio, lighting and a dedicated home theater, installed by Jeff Frank's company that he founded in 2000 to provide customized systems that are both "cutting edge" and universally easy to operate.

The sports-bar configuration of the great room called for four high-definition Panasonic plasma monitors. Four are mounted on one wall, while the fifth is behind the bar (a sixth is in the master bedroom on a dedicated system). The great room also includes a 400-disc CD/DVD changer, four separate high-definition cable boxes, a Windows media PC and a karaoke player as sources. "The five plasmas...proved to be the biggest challenge," Frank explains. "Having the flexibility to watch any source on any monitor at any time was key." His crew tried three control systems before installing any equipment, finally settling on a media PC with a 10-inch wireless tablet and custom interface.

For distributed audio, Frank created 12 separate zones—leaving no areas inside or out music-less. These sources include AM/FM/XM radio, MP3s served off the PC, the CD/DVD player and the karaoke system—with wireless mics, of course.

Built by Simply Home Cinemas of Scottsdale, the home theater, a system on its own, has a front projector, a 106-inch high-definition screen, lighting, nine motorized reclining leather seats and a motorized proscenium curtain. "It gives you that true "theater experience,"" says Frank.

Howard is already tuning in to possible upgrades: "The industry is moving at such a rapid pace," Frank says. "New and better products are coming out daily."



View of covered patio at rear, with gas fire jetted pool, fire pit and spa in background

“The concept was to design an open feel with flowing spaces yet defined by their ceiling design,” says Tsontakis of the interior. Inside and outside, this is an entertainment home—so much of the open space has been accommodated with amenities that Howard requested from Tsontakis.

“I really didn’t have a vision for the home,” recalls Howard, who moved from his native Spokane, Wash., in 2001 to grow his company, which he has since sold. “I told Nick I wanted the house to be excellent for entertaining—I guess a little bit down the ‘MTV Cribs’ style. So when I went in to look at the plan, Nick told me it was going to be Contemporary style and I said, ‘OK.’”

### Resorting to the Backyard

“The backyard was designed and built to rival many resorts,” says Derryberry, whose wife, Suzie, helped make some design selections, at Howard’s request.

His company built the large diving pool (it carries about three times the volume of water as a regular pool) and 12-person hot tub, all choreographable with bachelor-friendliness on a 12-function controller by Advanced Power of Phoenix. Here, Derryberry imported granite boulders to form a swim-in grotto with a waterfall and slide as well as a spectacular swim-up sunken ramada-covered bar. Here guests can swim, drink, converse and watch television on a motorized screen that drops out of the way into the counter. To add to the warmth, Tsontakis placed a fire pit next to the ramada and a series of fire jets poolside.

For non-natatorial activities, Derryberry installed an outdoor barbecue area, a putting green and a full-size multi-purpose sports court for basketball, volleyball, wind sprints and just about anything Howard will need to do to keep him in shape to keep up with the various demands his house is making on him,

outside and in. Finally, for the remaining open space, Whitfield Nurseries of Phoenix supplied xeriscape plants and trees.

On the exterior of the wood-framed home, Tsontakis stacked ancient stone on the “reverse buttresses,” which are topped with copper flashing. Matching this, copper-clad shading canopies sit over the windows. Some of the buttresses support the radiused covered patios that mirror the circular ceilings Tsontakis designed for the great room, which opens to the pool area. The other buttresses are decorative.

On the misted patio, Sunset Patio provided to this area wrought-iron patio furniture such as chaises and club chairs as well as multi-colored cushions in Sunbrella Fabrics. To match Tsontakis’s copper details, the furniture was powder coated in the Copper Vein finish. “The patio furniture brought an extension of the home directly to Steve’s backyard, making a bold, masculine,



Front view of the home at dusk

but elegant look,” says Nancy Djariri, the company’s designer/owner.

## Are You Game for this Great Room?

The great room—Entertainment Central for the home—features semi-circular butt-glazed windows; and the adjacent billiard room, motorized glass panels, installed by Scottsdale’s Doors in Motion, which connect it to the covered patio. In this area is a conversation area built around a round black concrete fire pit, by Phoenix’ Concrete Interior Designs, which also fabricated the powder room sink.

The center point of the great room is the bar area, with five flat-screen televisions provided by Premier Sight and Sound of Spokane, Wash. Robb & Stucky of Scottsdale provided the bar stools. Flooring for the great room and adjacent breakfast room and kitchen is 24-inch-square Roman Trevi travertine tiles, with Noce travertine borders and rich 6-inch-high bull-nosed baseboard. Keeping everyone cool are designer ceiling fans supplied by Phoenix’ Hinckley’s Lighting, which also provided the custom

lights and fixtures throughout the home.

As in the remainder of the home, quality furniture throughout the great room is functional and no-frills, reinforcing the clear linearity of the overall design. For instance, the I-shaped black leather sofa in the television viewing area is a W. Schillig sectional from Copenhagen Imports, Phoenix, which also supplied the Elite Manufacturing kitchen table and chairs upholstered with ultra micro-fiber for durability and low maintenance.

Parnian Furniture of Scottsdale supplied the “Bilbao” love seats/sofas around the fireplace. The “Bilbao” Collection was designed in 1999 by Vladimir Kagan, inspired by Frank Gehry’s remarkable Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain. “It is a perfect fit for the area in gorgeous desert tones of sand, clay and a canyon combination of colors,” says Parnian designer Irina Liakhovich. Finally, Jon Thiele from Phoenix’ All Elements built the brushed-steel coffee table, side tables and wall shelf.

## Exercise in Bachelorhood

For the air-conditioned exercise room

adjacent to the garage, At Home Fitness of Scottsdale and Chandler provided the equipment, including the Pro Sport 100; a free-weight system; a lat pull; seated rows; bicep curls; a decline, flat, and incline bench with leg curl and leg extension; and custom rubber flooring mats. “Anything you want to do on this gym, you can,” says Bryan Dorksens, co-owner of At Home Fitness.

Indeed, almost anything you want to do in this home you can, effortlessly, joyously. From its pivoted metal-and-glass entry door with copper push/pull bars, to its high-tech sports bar and almost sybaritic backyard, the Howard bachelor pad has its owner feeling, well, singularly blessed. “Nick and Tom made the process easy and smooth,” Howard says. “I just trusted their judgment—and it turned out better than I could have expected.” ■

For more information about home design and construction call Nick Tsontakis at Nick Tsontakis AIA Architecture and Interiors at 480-874-2288 or go to [www.tsontakisarchitecture.com](http://www.tsontakisarchitecture.com). See back cover.