

THE VOICE OF THE HEARTH BARBECUE AND PATIO INDUSTRIES

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Home for
the
Holidays

The New Alpine Stove & Fireplace
is now open for business.

Center Stage



Two stainless-steel firepits command attention on a stage of white stone, green grass and multi-shaped plants.

Nestled among old citrus groves on two and a half acres at the base of Camelback Mountain in Phoenix, landscape contractor/environmental designer Troy Bankord has positioned two raised firepits at the center of activity in this country modern home.

Before Bankord began his work, there was more lawn and less patio. The white flooring he installed is

a crushed seashell with a stone called Marbella. "It's cooler to the touch and the feet here in Arizona," he says, "and I wanted that white tile connection with the white on the house."

He also wanted a focal point, a sculptural element that could be seen from within and without the home. Bankord found the firepits at Modern Home in Palm Springs. "I went

with the design they had," he says, "but enlarged and tweaked them. They are actually fabricated at a shop in Los Angeles, and are constructed of stainless steel. I put lava rock in the center and then a perimeter of black stones that tie in with the landscaping beds. I wanted to tie the house and garden together. The lava rock kind of mimics the color of Camelback Mountain."





At night, these firepits appear to float. So do concrete benches around the yard that have been fitted with recessed cup lights underneath. You see, Bankord created something of a Hollywood set here. At least that's what many of the 300 people invited to a marriage rehearsal dinner felt. He did it with stone and grass, whites and blacks, up lights and down, round plants and those with spikes and a multitude of seating areas.

"I want to create spaces that invite people," he says, "to draw them outdoors. That could be a sling or a hammock, or a couple of chairs beneath a tree – a little quiet spot."

And a couple of gorgeous firepits – as usual, as the center of attention.

Designer Troy Bankord, Principal of TM Bankord, Phoenix, Arizona. Visit www.tmbankordinc.com for more projects.

ABOVE: An opposite view shows the juxtaposition of hardscape and mature plantings. BELOW: Close-up of lava rock and stone in the firepits.