

QUICK RECHARGE
48 HOURS IN THE CATALINA FOOTHILLS

Sunset

LIVING IN THE WEST

The new comfort foods

22 delicious dishes ...
and zero guilt

Toasted bread, bean,
and vegetable soup
(212 CALORIES)

**COLOR
THERAPY**
Paint a
room, lift
your mood

GET ORGANIZED!
5 artful ways to store
your stuff P. 46



Teahouses:
The West's
healthiest bar
scene

JANUARY 2009



SUNSET.COM

Side-yard strategy

Color, curves, and playful touches freshen this space in Phoenix

BY SHARON COHOON | PHOTOGRAPH BY NORM PLATE

1 Dark paint

Changing the paint colors of the house and outside block wall from brick and beige to shades of gray makes the garden look cooler, greener, and more modern.

2 Graphic gate

To give the wrought-iron gate a bold new look, the owner removed its arrow-topped spikes, then wove aluminum flashing horizontally through its uprights like ribbon. Besides providing more privacy, the new gate better matches the home's more contemporary exterior.



3 Repeated curves

Rows of grasses echo the sensuous curve of the path. From short to tall, they are Berkeley sedge (*Carex divulsa*), *Muhlenbergia lindheimeri*, and purple fountain grass.

4 Utility screen

A new, three-sided enclosure of stuccoed concrete block hides an air-conditioning unit and irrigation valves. Peach-hued paint transforms the structure into an architectural element.

5 Seasonal accent

A Western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*) changes through the seasons, from pink spring blooms to golden fall foliage to magenta seedpods on bare winter branches.

DESIGN Troy Bankord, Phoenix (tmbankordinc.com or 602/482-6852)