

industry highlights

SPEC MIX[®] up to the challenge on an Arizona residence.

Industry experts talked about a 2006 downturn in residential building, but it didn't affect what was happening in Scottsdale, AZ. This incredible Silverleaf residence was completed much to the satisfaction of the architect, contractors and owner involved. This award winning home, set among the McDowell Mountains was designed and crafted with the utmost of detail.



This 9600 sq. ft. custom residence utilized brick and concrete masonry in addition to stones native to the actual property. Linthicum, the General Contractor on the project along with the architect Yee Wing Yiu of H & S International, designed and built the home to blend in with the natural environment. Mr. Yiu said, "We wanted the home to look like it belongs in this setting. It was important that it flowed naturally with the environment. This is something that people don't notice about a design, but if the house or features stick out, then it's usually out of place and doesn't look good, and people notice that."

Yee Wing Yiu designs all of his projects with masonry serving as the backbone of the structure. "You can really tell when a house is framed with wood versus when it is built with masonry", Yiu said. "When you walk up to a home and touch it and feel it, you know right away that it is designed with masonry or that it is wood framed. A masonry home always seems to maintain the same temperature, feel and structural integrity."

The stones used on the project were native to the property and it was graded from larger to smaller stones so the mason contractor, Sutter Masonry, could build the walls from bottom to top starting with the largest stones and using smaller ones as the walls went up. "This is just one of the unique features

that people really notice when they look at the house", Yiu says. The house was also designed with mortar-wash on the stones. He continued, "It's very crucial that the mortar quality is consistent every time and if the mason gets too much mortar on the stones, the walls look like they have measles and if you don't get enough mortar across the stones, they look dry-stacked." Yee Wing said they could not have achieved the right look without the consistency of SPEC MIX and the true craftsmanship of Sutter Masonry and admitted he was a bit fearful of the challenges



before the project started, but soon after the project started his worries were eased as the home developed a consistent look from start to finish. Mike Sutter, of Sutter Masonry, confirmed that the big advantage of SPEC MIX on this project was the consistency of the mortar color



and the finish texture throughout the entire project. Another unique aspect of the masonry on this project was the colored mortar and the very creative finish. Mike Sutter explained, "The mortar was actually finished by embedding crushed granite into the mortar."

The Arizona Masonry Guild gave the home an, 'Excellence in Masonry Award' in 2006. Many of the judges declared it was

one of the best residential masonry projects they had ever seen. Mike Sutter said, "It took us 1 ½ years to complete the masonry on this job from the start of the foundations to finishing the stone veneer.

The project required about 120 tons of SPEC MIX mortar, supplied by Superlite Block, Inc. which went into about 20,000 square feet of Concrete Masonry Unit and Stone Veneer construction.