

In this issue . . .

Features

**Modus
Development
Green Ideas
Return of the EV**

**Fashion: Eco-
Texture**

Departments

**Details
Renovation
Architecture
Interior
Urban Explorer
Weekend Getaway
Gallery
Artist**

**Industrial NFL Meets the Green Lady**

by Tim McIntire

A former NFL player buys a small condo in Scottsdale, guts it to the bare walls and then asks you to tackle a redesign. That's what happened to Anne Bertino, principal designer with the Bertino-Baumann Design Group in Scottsdale.

"What kind of look do you want?" Bertino began, trying to understand her new client's concept.

"Sort of clean and modern, a bit industrial, yet warm," he explained.

After showing him countless elements in design books and magazines, Bertino began to get a sense of what he liked. Tying it all together, however, proved to be a work in progress.

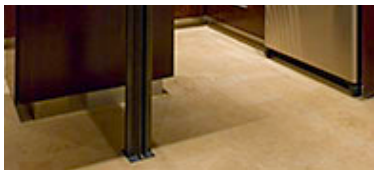
"We never did end up with one final, agreed upon set of designs," Bertino smiles. "Instead, concepts and elements continued to morph each time we met."

Bertino is accustomed to change. After 15 years as an aerospace engineer, she pursued a degree in interior design at Scottsdale Community College where she ran headlong into the green design movement. Her technical background gave her easy entry into the sometimes arcane, often heady technical specs and chemistry underlying green building standards, while her design training helped formalize her innate good taste and creative eye. What she has become she describes as a "green interior designer."

But what happens when you cross a green designer with a "modern, industrial yet warm" NFL star with a gutted Scottsdale condo? An intriguing space full of engaging perspectives, colors, textures and materials, to be sure.

Working with Bertino is Jeffrey Frost from a.k.a. Green, who provided access to a host of green product suppliers.

"Beginning with the flooring, we selected cork tiles in the kitchen and dining areas," explains Frost. "Cork is a readily renewable resource from Spain and Portugal where the trees are not killed when the cork, which is the outer bark of the trees, is peeled off every nine years."



Upstairs, Bertino and her team selected flooring made from Brazilian cherry wood known in South America as jatoba. Open-grained like oak, but more than twice as hard, jatoba features dark brown or black streaks contrasting with a background that ranges from dark orange to reddish brown. It's expensive, but as a building material, it is certified by the non-profit Forest Stewardship Council, which establish standards to promote healthy timber production that does not have adverse impacts on habitat, water quality or indigenous peoples.

For the bathroom floors, Bertino and her team selected Santa Regina Terrazzo tile, which contains recycled granite, marble and glass. The shower floor utilizes Terra Green tile, made from 55 percent recycled glass. The walls of the shower are covered with porcelain subway tiles manufactured from 50 percent post-industrial recycled porcelain. The toilet is a dual flush Toto toilet, which allows the user to toggle between .9 and 1.6 gallons of water per flush.

In the kitchen and bar areas, countertops are a locally cast and polished concrete sprinkled with polished bits of the glass tile used in the backsplash. The tiles are a drop-dead gorgeous deep flame red made of 100 percent recycled glass by Bedrock Industries. The non-toxic, no-iron grout surrounding the tiles is C-Cure AR 922.

Cabinets by Neil Kelly in the kitchen and bar are certified free of formaldehyde (classified by the EPA as a "probable human carcinogen"), unlike most commercially produced particle and flake boards, and are made of wheat board and FSC-certified wood panels, non-toxic finishes and glues. Appliances are energy-efficient models made by Viking.

The client's tastes help dictate how all of the green and traditional elements have come together.

"The modern industrial look is preserved in the common wall between the adjoining condo," Bertino explains. "All of the drywall and supporting studs had been removed from the grey concrete block wall, and the wall sandblasted to achieve a uniform color and consistency."

Open galvanized metal ductwork and other fittings add to the industrial look, while modern, clean lines are preserved where key walls, facets and lines join. Yet overall, such stark elements are softened by the warm hues of the wooden flooring, a buff sandstone fireplace veneer and judicious splashes of flame red wall paint (American Pride and Yolo Colorhouse paints manufactured with low or no volatile organic compounds) that help tie together elements visible from both upstairs and downstairs.

A green interior with red walls may not be everyone's nirvana, but somehow it all works.



Anne Bertino's sustainable design solutions are visible in every area of the condo including the "Experimental Chair" she designed pictured here. This eco-friendly chair features materials such as recycled polished aluminum, pure wool and organic cotton.