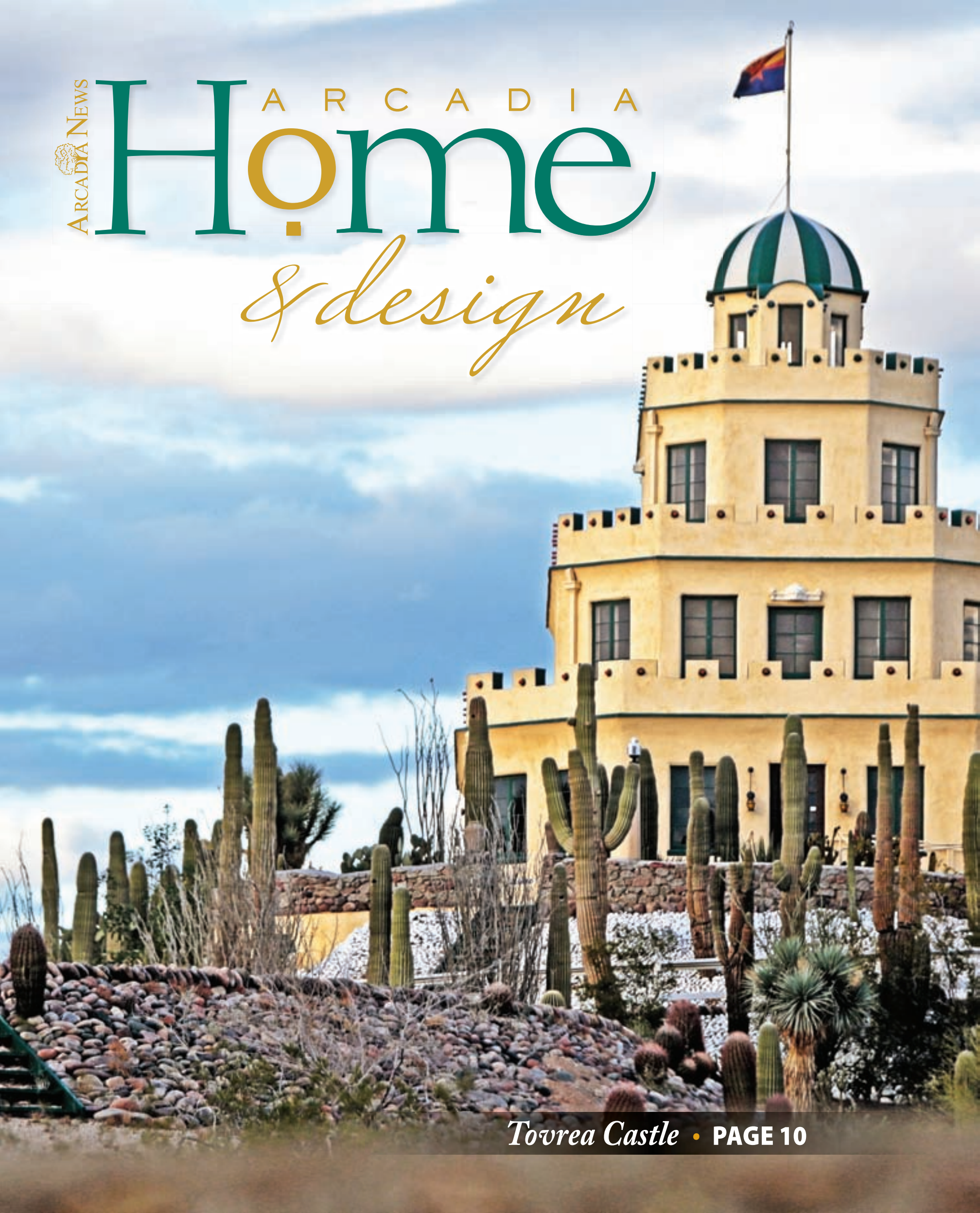


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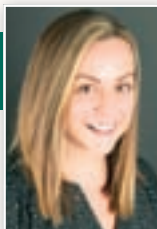
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EDITOR'S NOTE

The Tovrea Castle, a Phoenix Point of Pride, is one of the most well-known homes in the Valley. Built

in 1928, the “wedding-cake” structure was originally meant to be a boutique hotel for those visiting Phoenix. Unfortunately for owner Alessio Carraro, the Great Depression led to its closure shortly after it opened.

It wasn't until the mid-2000s when the Tovrea Carraro Society partnered with the City of Phoenix to allow visitors to tour the building and its surrounding 44 acres. Volunteer-run and docent-led, guests are able to take a peek into the lives of the castle's former owners, Alessio Carraro and E.A. and Della Tovrea.

This month, we're also discussing the newest trends in interior design and purchasing art for your home. Whether you are looking to buy your first piece of art or are ready to update your living space with the latest trends, *Arcadia Home & Design* has it covered.

Contact me at editor@arcadianews.com with feedback and story ideas. Until next time, thank you for reading *Arcadia News* and *Arcadia Home & Design*!

—mallory

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Community gardens are popping up all around the Valley as places where neighbors and residents can come together to learn, grow and nurture the land around us.

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The Tovrea Castle at Carraro Heights is one of Phoenix's historic Points of Pride. Tours of the landmark and its surrounding acres have been offered since 2012.

14 BUYING YOUR FIRST PIECE OF ARTWORK

With a plethora of art studios and galleries in our area, buying artwork can be an intimidating experience. We offer tips to help you get started.



Community Gardens

Cultivating relationships with food and neighbors

By Melissa Hirschl

Schools, community centers and neighborhoods are increasingly embracing community gardens where groups cultivate their own plot of land and harvest an array of vegetables and fruits. These gardens are revitalizing communities and creating lush oases for entire neighborhoods to enjoy. Here are some popular community gardens around the Valley:

DIGit.GROWit.SHAREit.

4308 N. 27th St., Phoenix

Local resident Jenna Pierides founded this garden in late July of last year. The 22,000 square-foot garden was originally a large lot of untamed trees and overgrown weeds. Pierides and her team are working hard to transform the land into a thriving community garden.

“It is a community effort, and so far, it’s been a miraculous experience,” said Pierides. “My desire is to bring people together to foster community and sustainability through growing food.”

The garden is a co-op that encourages members to brainstorm “outside-the-box” ideas. Pierides envisions the garden will host events such as yoga classes, movie nights and art classes.

For more: dgsgarden.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNA PIERIDES

DIGit.GROWit.SHAREit. was started by Jenna Pierides (second from right) in summer 2019.



Along with Pierson Street and Mountain View Park, Keep Phoenix Beautiful has also partnered with Steele Indian School Park. Above is a beautification project that was hosted during Marine Week in 2015.

PHOTO: LANCE CPL. DANIELLE RODRIGUES

Desert Botanical Gardens

1201 N. Galvin Pkwy., Phoenix

This 140-acre cornucopia of trees, flowers and cacti from around the world also supports its own garden. David Hill, the director of DBG's community garden, said, "We strive to showcase and share the best practices in desert gardening. We currently have 24-40 co-op gardeners and we welcome more."

Master gardeners are an integral part of the garden's success and provide novice gardeners with expert advice. They also share garden and landscape information at home and garden festivals. Liz Mathis, master gardener at DBG, said, "I enjoy talking with people who have always wanted to plant a garden, but need some encouragement to take that first step."

DBG also offers a master gardening program. The

17-week course takes place at the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension in Phoenix. Students immerse themselves in the studies of botany, cacti supplements, composting, herbs and much more. Graduate ambassadors help educate the public at events, schools, gardens and community gatherings.

For more: dbg.org.

Pierson Street Community Garden/ Mountain View Park Community Garden

1822 W. Pierson St., Phoenix
9901 N. 7th Ave., Phoenix

These sister-gardens, run by Keep Phoenix Beautiful, a nonprofit funded by Phoenix Public Works and corporate sponsors, provide ample opportunities for gardening and volunteering. Both offer three-quarter acre raised beds that

grow kale, squash, tomatoes, carrots, radishes, beets and lettuce. According to Gail LaTour, master gardener who oversees both gardens, "these plots are ideal for families, scouts, small groups, or nonprofits that serve Vets, the homeless and seniors."

For those yearning for a more authentic farm experience, the Pierson Street Community Garden has chickens for egg harvesting and bees for honey-making. Worms are available for compost creation.

Mountain View Park Community Garden has a partnership with Mountain View Elementary School and area senior centers. Inter-generational bonding experiences such as cooking classes are a prime example of the garden's efforts to strengthen the community. What's more, both of these gardens also donate their unused food to local food banks.

For more: keepphxbeautiful.org.

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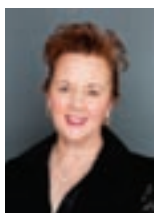
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Interior design TRENDS FOR 2020

By Jennifer Marshall | PHOTOS COURTESY OF DENISE MONTI

Arcadia is known for many things, including the incredible homes that grace our neighborhoods. As a reflection and extension of the families that occupy those homes, it's important to stay on top of the latest trends in interior design to keep spaces feeling well-designed, functional and organized.

Arcadia News reached out to Scottsdale designer Denise Monti, founder and CEO of D|Monti Interior Design, to talk about what design trends are popular for 2020. Monti has over a decade of experience in high-end residential interiors.

What are some unexpected items that people are using to decorate their homes right now?

My clients often bring back items from their travels, like a sculpture or a special painting, and they want to decorate around these treasures. Consequently, we can

develop a room's entire theme around a particular piece of art, transforming it into the focal point of the space. And right here in Arizona, we're surrounded by art galleries full of many types and styles of paintings and sculptures.

When it comes to furniture, clients mainly search for high-end pieces that are both unique and captivating. For example, I may find my clients a sofa that, while it looks purely for decoration, is also comfortable, functional and well designed. Or perhaps there's a floor lamp that looks like a sculpture, yet it bathes the room in soft, usable light.

While traditional looks still exist, clients are heading more toward modern style. However, they're eclectic in their tastes, too, so their style could end up being a variation of the traditional and modern. Remember also that less is more, and decor items and furniture that are unique, compelling and serviceable are what people are seeking right now.

What colors are popular in 2020?

People are still enjoying light-colored floors, so with the exception of flooring, we're definitely leaving the grays and the neutral colors behind this year.

Going forward, dark colors, like navy blue, and more warm tones are definitely in right now. Red is a powerful color that's typically used as an accent.

Every color is beautiful; it's all in how you use



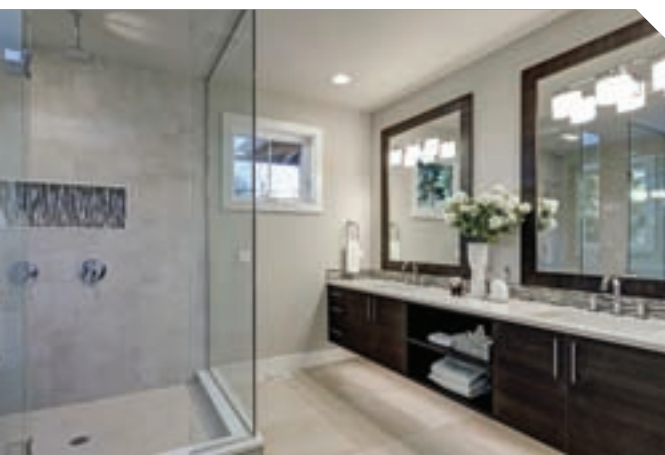
Denise Monti

them. Play with color and experiment with different shades. For example, color can be applied in various combinations to highlight and contrast, such as setting off a dark wall with lighter toned ivory or taupe decorative piece.

What's cooking in kitchen design this year?

While people may not cook as much as they once did, they still spend a great deal of time in the kitchen. They really want a nice and welcoming environment for hosting family and friends.

We aren't using as much white as we have in the past, but it's still there and it's now being mixed with other





colors, like blue. The idea is to achieve a kitchen that's warm and light, not cold and sterile. Shades of yellow and pastels can support this look – adding a wood table gives the area an organic touch.

Tell us about an unusual on-trend design feature for this year?

Wallpaper is back. We now have so many nicely done wallpapers that people are embracing this decorating trend once again.

How do you help your clients create homes they will love?

When I talk to my clients, I remind them that their home has to reflect their individual tastes, what they like and what makes them happy because they're the ones who will be calling it home, and they need to feel good about how and where they're living. And a home should always feel comfortable.




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Tovrea Castle

FUN FACT: It was Carraro's son Leo's idea to paint the rocks around the property white. According to the tour guide, Alessio jokingly handed Leo a paint brush and told him to get to work – and he did!

A PALACE IN THE DESERT

By Mallory Gleich | PHOTOS COURTESY OF TOVREA CARRARO SOCIETY

It's a Phoenix Point of Pride and one of the most unique landmarks in the Valley. It's visible from two freeways, several major streets and myriad window-seat passengers who fly into Phoenix every year. For all those that see the outside from afar, a limited number of visitors are able to experience the Tovrea Castle at Carraro Heights up close and personal. Tours of the 44-acre site and its 5,000 square foot architectural “wedding cake” castle are very limited and sell out quickly.

The first family to settle on the property was the Warners:

WARNER FAMILY

In 1907, a couple named Ferdinand (F.L.) and Lizzie Warner established their homestead when they married on 160 acres of land near the Salt River in Phoenix. They built a home on the hill in the center of the property and called it “Warner Heights.”



Tourist sign located in the basement of the castle.

CARRARO FAMILY

In 1928, the Warners sold their property to Alessio Carraro for \$68,000. Carraro came to the United States from Italy in 1907. He originally resided in San Francisco,



Sylvia Ottoboni and Alessio Carraro married in San Francisco in 1910.



COURTESY OF FRANK, LEO, AND MARIE CARRARO

Alessio Carraro and the touring car he drove during his 1923 visit to his homeland.



COURTESY OF THE TOVREA FAMILY

At one time, E.A. Tovrea was the general manager of the Sonoran Packing Company, based in Cananea, Sonora, Mexico.

California, making his money through a successful sheet metal business. Carraro moved to Arizona in 1928 with the vision of opening a resort and housing development in Phoenix. Taking a cue from the Warner family, he named the property “Carraro Heights.”

Carraro and his son oversaw the 14-month project in which the centerpiece of his vision was built. Carraro’s plan included luxury home sites that would be placed around the property.

To start, a 40 by 60-foot hole was blasted out of the solid granite to form the basement. From there, workers used pine wood and stucco to create each level of the castle. Only the roof of the cupola, the structure at the top of the castle, is made of sheet metal.

When the Great Depression hit, Carraro’s dreams of opening a resort were put to rest. Carraro was forced to put the building and land up for sale in 1931.

TOVREA FAMILY

Originally from Illinois, Edward Ambrose (E.A.) Tovrea started a successful freight company that transported goods between Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. He made his way to Phoenix in 1885.

Tovrea started his career in the Valley by opening various butcher shops. Later, he founded the Arizona Packing Company, which would become known as the Tovrea Packing Company, on 400 acres that is now around Washington and 48th Street. The packing company once processed more than 300,000 head of cattle annually, making the Tovrea Stockyards the largest custom feedlot in the world.

Stockyards Steakhouse, which is still open today, was a popular meeting spot for Tovrea’s employees and clients.

45-year-old Tovrea met Della when she was just 18 at a shop that she worked at in Bisbee.

After years of living near the Stockyards, the Tovreas watched the castle being built, and when it went up for sale Della put in a sealed bid for \$21,500 for the castle and 44 acres.

E.A. Tovrea passed away a year after moving into the castle. Della stayed until her death in 1969. Afterwards, the castle was owned by the Tovrea Family Estate and was overseen by caretakers who lived on the property along with members of the Tovrea family until the City of Phoenix bought it in 1993.



Della Gillespie Tovrea Stuart

Guests can also view the “pyramid,” a giant structure built in 1993 bearing the names of three generations of Tovrea. The symbol on the pyramid is the Circle Walking L, which was Tovrea’s cattle brand.

Carraro installed a number of “activity areas” for his guests – he wanted people to have something to do while they stayed at his hotel. The game court, which is almost 100 years old, was built with bricks and blocks that were made on-site.

He also built a pond to attract the native wildlife. Later on, Della built a reflecting pool on the opposite side of the pond. It was there that guests could take in the views and the massive saguaro. Della also had over 130 peacocks roaming the premises. There still stands a horseshoe court, a patio and an aviary where she kept exotic birds.

Also on the property is a well house, fuel house and a caretaker’s house that remain in their original shape – though the paint has long-since worn off. The caretaker’s house is the oldest building on the property, having been part of the original homestead of the Warner’s.

The Carraro cottage was also part of the landscape. For a while, homeless people squatted in the building, and when they were forced out, they set it on fire. It stayed standing for a little longer until a microburst flattened it. Now all that’s left is a pile of burnt wood and some pillars. The Tovrea Carraro Society plans on reconstructing the cottage in the near future and is in the process of raising funds.

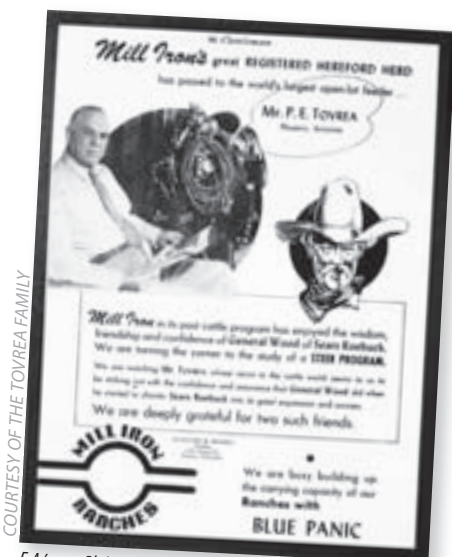
CITY OF PHOENIX

In 2010, the city completed the renovations to the building, but had no money to open it to the public. The Tovrea Carraro Society was formed the following year as a nonprofit to specifically operate and manage the castle and grounds in a unique partnership with the City of Phoenix. Tours of the castle began in March 2012.

The Tovrea Castle Tour is around 90 minutes long and starts at the visitor’s center. From there, guests are taken through the Carraro Cactus Gardens by tram with a certified docent.

The tour winds through 44 acres, where guests can see the outer buildings amongst more than 100 varieties of over 5,000 cacti.

On the castle grounds, guests can check out the wrought iron gates that Della installed as part of the original entrance Carraro had built from granite. Carraro, as a hotelier, wanted people to come in and visit the area and stay at the castle as a boutique hotel. When the Tovreas moved in, it became a private home, instead.



COURTESY OF THE TOVREA FAMILY

E.A.’s son, Philip Edward Tovrea is pictured here in an undated advertisement in *The Cattleman*, a beef industry publication.



COURTESY OF FRANK, LEO, AND MARIE CARRARO

Workers at Carraro Heights, c. 1929.



Bell from Jerome, a vault in the basement, faux fireplace with hearth.

After touring the grounds, guests enter the 5,000 square-foot castle. Near the entrance is a train bell – a memento E.A. brought with him from Jerome, where he spent some time as the town’s mayor.

Inside, guests are instructed to wear booties over their shoes to not disrupt the maple flooring that is over 100 years old. The great room boasts memorabilia of the past, such as a dress that Della wore and a lounge chair from the original castle that has since been reupholstered.

Guests can see the stenciling of pineapples on the walls, which is the international symbol of hospitality – a nod to Carraro’s dream of opening a hotel.

There is also a faux fireplace – there was no room for a chimney to be built in the house, so the only source of warmth was through electric heaters placed in each room. The base of the hearth is designed from Terrazzo and models the Arizona flag.

The Dancing Girl Medallion above the fireplace was a thank you gift from the artisans who created the same medallions seen at the Orpheum Theatre. The workers had no place to work on items for the Orpheum, so Carraro let them use his machine shop.

Guests also tour the kitchen, where Della slept when

she got older, as it was too hard for her to get up and down the stairs.

One of the more interesting stories told during the tour is of a break-in at the castle in November 1968. During a storm one night, two men broke into the house and had a brief struggle with Della. A gunshot went off and hit the ceiling (guests can still clearly see the hole it left). After the melee, the men tied Della up and took \$50,000 worth of silver and jewelry. She was able to get loose and ran to the outside bell, ringing it to get the attention of those at the caretaker’s cottage.

When that didn’t work, 80-year-old Della made her way to the caretaker’s house and was then able to call the police. Because of this incident, she caught pneumonia and died in January 1969. Shortly after her death, the police caught one of the robbers in California, and Della received justice posthumously.

Since Della’s death, the castle remained part of the Tovrea Family Estate with various caretakers and family members living in it. When the property was purchased by the City of Phoenix, plans for restorations began – although work on the castle didn’t start until 2005. Today, the castle is purely volunteer-run, thanks to the Tovrea Carraro Society.

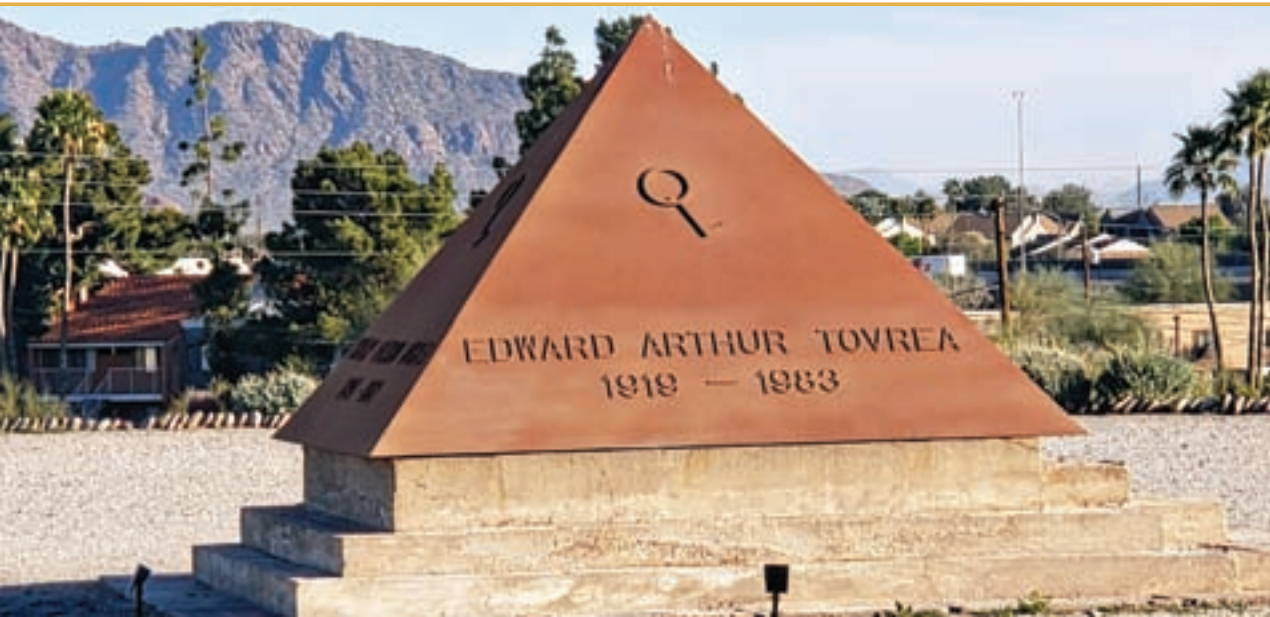
Tours are offered on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays; group tours on Thursdays and special events on Wednesdays. Tickets need to be bought in advance and are booked through June with no tours given in July and August. In its first year of operations, more than 4,200 guests visited the castle. Now over 20,000 guests tour this site each year.

In a way, Carraro’s dream became a reality, and people from all over are able to enjoy the beauty and views of Tovrea Castle at Carraro Heights. For more: tovreacastle.com.



Tovrea Castle with touches of snow in a greeting card painted by Peter Jordan.

Tovrea monument and the basement ceiling texture.



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Buying your first piece of art

By Rachael Bouley

Shopping for your first piece of artwork can be daunting when there are many local art galleries and creations to choose from. So how do you go about finding and buying a piece of art you can love for years to come? Here's what some local art aficionados recommend:

Embrace the excitement

One of the main things people should feel when shopping for art is that it excites them. Valerie Hildebrand, manager of On the Edge Gallery, encourages buyers to make sure they really like an art piece before they invest. "The 'right' piece of artwork will always catch your attention when you see it," Hildebrand said. "It may invoke memories of a vacation, a happy event, a calming state of mind or just the excitement it invoked when you found it."

It's helpful to look at a lot of artwork and get permission from the gallery or artist to take photos of the art to review later. Inquiring about the medium, technique, inspiration and artist can give people a better sense of the piece.

"You may even find an artist or two who you want to follow to see how their work develops over time," Hildebrand said. "Don't be overly concerned with a style or whether it goes with your décor. If you love it then it's the right piece."



Visit a local gallery

Shoppers should also keep in mind the benefits of visiting local art galleries for their first purchase. Philip Koss, gallery manager of American Fine Art Inc., suggests speaking to an art consultant in person. "Look for a reputable gallery that carries a variety of artwork, different styles, genres, subject matter and prices so that you can see the artwork firsthand, in real life, to select what you like," Koss said. "We suggest that people buy the best they can afford of what they love."

Koss recommends buying online only if it's with a gallery that has a proven track record and a physical location. It's important to get up close and personal with artwork to see if you can imagine living with it day in and day out. "The influence and impact of artwork in a home is immeasurable," Koss added. "It can change the ambience, it can create the feeling of home, it can ignite your passion for life, and it can spark your imagination every day."

Appreciate art that grabs your attention

Michael Costello, owner of Costello Gallery, reminds buyers that art is subjective and they should stay true to their own opinions and preferences. While black and white art pieces are trending right now, as well as graphic pieces, it's all up to the buyer and what they think of the artwork – art is intended to evoke a response.

"Buying art isn't a horse race. It's about getting it right, not getting it quick," Costello said. "You're looking to spend money on something which is going to enhance where you live, so you need to spend the time and find a gallery that's willing to work with you."

Educating oneself on art and learning more about the



Desert Ladies by M. Sullivan.

artists will help people get a better idea of what they want. "Collecting art is fun, but before you collect anything you need a basic understanding of art," Costello said. "It's not a prerequisite that you have a degree in art to buy it."

Ask about "on approval" options

Max Smith, manager of Art One Gallery, advocates that first-time art buyers should ask galleries about their "on approval" options, where shoppers can take a piece home and keep it for a short period of time to test it out.

At Art One, where all of the art comes from students and local artists, they insist that buyers try it out and see if the art fits into their environment. Getting as much information about the art and the artist is worthwhile, too.

No matter where your art shopping adventures take you, Smith suggests you keep in mind the impact art can have on a living space. "I think art has such an importance in your home," Smith said. "It gives you an outside perspective and challenges you to look at things in a different way."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ART ONE GALLERY

Sal Cosenza's six-foot wide painting entitled "Out of the Darkness, Into the Light."



Investing in the art market

Investing in a piece of artwork can offer some different benefits than traditional assets, especially considering expansion, aesthetic appeal and a lower rate of depreciation compared to financial markets, where risk is a primary factor.

According to marketing and stock website benzinga.com, “Market risk is inherent to the stock market and can’t be diversified away. No matter how many cheap index funds you buy, you’re still going to lose value during a downturn.”

The good news is, pieces of art aren’t correlated to the whims of Wall Street. By buying art, people can create a value in a nonorthodox financial category. One benefit of investing in a passion category like art is the usage and enjoyment an owner will experience while holding the asset.

Not all art is free of depreciation, and rates of return will vary. Always keep in mind that your investment is only worth what someone else is willing to pay for it and sometimes it could be a complete financial loss. Perhaps then it could become a donation to your favorite charity, and maybe the loss could be offset with a tax deduction (check with your CPA)?

Here are a few tips:

- **Invest in art books and do some research** – educate yourself on the different types of art and artists.
- **Window-shop at galleries and museums** – check online reviews to learn about gallery reputations.
- **Consider calling in the professionals** – an art consultant could be beneficial in deciding what piece to buy and where to buy it.
- **Don’t overspend for a famous artist** – if you’re not ready to pay full price for a piece from a well-known artist, consider an edition, which is one in a series of the same image.
- **Make sure your home or renter’s insurance will cover its value** – you may need to buy additional coverage.
- **Be careful where you put your art.** If the work might fade, make sure to keep it out of direct sunlight.
- Now, sit back and enjoy your investment!

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