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**Talking Rock, *Phoenix Home & Garden* 2007 Idea House Takes Shape**  
*Building of custom home showcases top architectural, design and building talent*

**PRESCOTT, Ariz. (September 20, 2006)** – Talking Rock and *Phoenix Home & Garden* are beginning to see their ideas take shape at the 2007 Idea House - an elaborate collaboration among professionals in the home building industry that will result in a 5,200 square-foot ranch-style custom home in Arizona's high country. The completed custom home will feature a main house, guest house and barn, all of which will be built with attention to every detail – a culmination that will be nothing short of amazing.

Set on just over an acre golf course homesite in the Talking Rock development, the motivation behind the Phoenix Home & Garden Idea House is to spark imagination and boundless options in home construction, design and living. That's why architect Daniel Eastburn of Design Barbarians Architects, builder Gregory Mortimer of GK Mortimer Custom Homes, Inc. and interior designer Denise Scott-Weber of Weber Custom Interiors, Inc. make such an impressive team.

Boasting years of combined experience, Eastburn, Mortimer and Scott-Weber are not only highly qualified but are well respected in their chosen fields. And, all three share the same mythical vision of how the compound came to be. In their myth, the homesteaders' ranch dwelling – today the guest cottage – would have been built in the late 1890's, the barn/bunkhouse a bit later, and the main house in 1920.

The myth begins with the guest house, featuring hand-hewn logs with some of their bark still attached, native stone at the fireplace and a corrugated metal roof aged to look as if it has been in place well over 100 years.

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The myth continues with the barn - built to store the essentials of a working ranch on its lower level and to house ranch workers up top. Its lower level was converted to a garage over time, but the loft area/bunkhouse remains nearly unchanged, with its distressed timber rafters and random plank floors.

The myth ends with the main house - a blending of old and new, boasting old-looking-but-new dry-stacked stone fireplaces, hand-made open-beam trusses, and amazing dove-tailed mortise-and-tenon joinery at post-and-beam connections.

“Each of the three buildings is an idea house in itself, and each takes on a character of its own,” says Eastburn. Mortimer said his involvement with the Idea House has been “an experience that has reignited my passion for building.” Adds Scott-Weber, “people who read about or visit the Idea House will be wowed and will come away with good ideas and will feel more comfortable about mixing styles.”

The Idea House will be built with attention to every detail by professionals from across Arizona. The interior components of the three separate buildings that make up the compound will include reclaimed wood floors, intimate flowing open spaces, uniquely designed ceilings, fireplaces and more. The exterior will consist of fieldstone accents, wood siding and metal roofs. An overall feeling of indoor/outdoor living will capitalize on the pristine views of Talking Rock and its championship golf course, incorporating wraparound verandas, large windows and doors to perfectly frame the mountainous scenery of the surrounding land.

The progress of the Phoenix Home & Garden Idea House can also be seen in the magazine and on the publication’s Web site, [www.phgmag.com](http://www.phgmag.com). Samples of fabrics, building materials, on-site construction progress and more are featured monthly in *Phoenix Home & Garden* and will continue until the project is complete in spring 2007. Once finished, the Idea House will be open for touring for three consecutive weekends.

Offering the best of both worlds, Talking Rock is located in a peaceful, rural setting and yet is just minutes from Prescott where homeowners have access to shopping, dining, entertainment and numerous outdoor recreational opportunities. It is a 3,600-acre

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private, luxury home community with a casual western lifestyle and the amenities of an exclusive country club. Its Jay Morrish-designed 7,350-yard championship golf course intertwines through more than 1,000 acres of preserved open space, presenting residents with the spaciousness of Arizona's high country. Talking Rock offers spacious custom homesites, as well as Ranch Cottages, Ranch Homes and custom homes designed in an authentic ranch style and built by the area's finest craftsmen.

Talking Rock is a development of Harvard Investments, a Scottsdale, Arizona based real estate development company respected for its high quality, residential projects throughout the Southwest. Harvard designed and developed communities are found in Austin, San Antonio, and Dallas, Texas; and in Phoenix, Sedona, and Tucson, Arizona.

Harvard's Canadian parent, the Hill Companies, is a privately held diversified company involved in real estate development, oil and gas production and distribution, broadcasting, surety bonding, and life insurance. The Hill Companies celebrated its 100th year of continuous family ownership and operation in February, 2003.

More information on Talking Rock and Harvard Investments, Inc. can be found at [www.talkingrockranch.com](http://www.talkingrockranch.com).

*Phoenix Home & Garden* is an ABC-audited publication with an average paid monthly circulation of 89,339. The magazine is part of Cities West Publishing Inc., a Phoenix-based company that also publishes *PHOENIX* magazine, the *PHOENIX* magazine *Medical Directory* and the *Phoenix Home & Garden Resource Directory*.

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