

THE AGE OF AQUARIUMS

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photography by Chris Loomis

Bustling, colorful sea life goes about its daily activities in this coral reef tank designed by Mark Collier of Custom Marine Aquaria, LLC.

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USED AS DESIGN ELEMENTS, TONY FISH TANKS MAKE STUNNING STATEMENTS IN VALLEY HOMES

Watching aquatic life shimmer and dance in its cerulean world has long been a stress-relieving pastime. No longer limited by the clunky technologies of old, aquariums have climbed to new heights in the home—sometimes quite literally. Whether suspended from the ceiling or used as a powder room wall, modern-day tanks provide their viewers with hours of entertainment. Presented here are some examples that will never have to fish for compliments.

It was the homeowner who originally brought

this concept for a “shower aquarium” to the design table. Architect Jon Poetzl and interior designer Angelica Henry joined forces to integrate the tank into not only the shower, but also the dressing room. Created by Mark Parks of Southwest Seas, the tank is enjoyable from either side and has its own ecosystem that is able to simulate daytime and nighttime, as well as thunderstorms.



Designed by Mark Collier, this 250-gallon unit houses living coral reef. The space was originally designated for a built-in stereo system but the homeowner decided to incorporate an aquarium instead. Situated next to a fireplace, the tank mirrors the dimensions of a flat-screen TV installed in a matching cabinet on the other side.

This “Spacearium” is suspended, allowing natural light to pass through the tank. Manufactured by Aquarium ASP of Montreal, the piece is supported by tubes that also replenish its

saltwater supply. This room was designed by Amy Gutierrez, ASID, who notes that the aquarium serves as a whimsical, unexpected focal point between the breakfast and living rooms, and was incorporated for the owners' young sons to enjoy. Its residents include flame angelfish, goby fish, pajama cardinalfish, chocolate chip starfish, neon-hued wrasses and turbo snails.



Photos - From left: The owners of this Scottsdale residence wanted a unique aquarium designed to reflect their home's Mid-Century Modern style. Created by Mark Collier, the 325-gallon saltwater fish tank includes a floating base that is characteristic of large pieces from that era. • Inspired by a friend's home in California, the owners of an Arizona residence asked their builder, Rod Cullum of Cullum Homes, if a fish tank would fit in a space that had previously been designated for cabinets and shelves. "We now have a 'fish room' with pipes running under the concrete slab, up through the walls, and then to the tank," the owners note. The 350-gallon reef tank sits between a powder room and great room. Looking through to the great room, the tank is transparent. However, the view is obscured from the other side for privacy.
