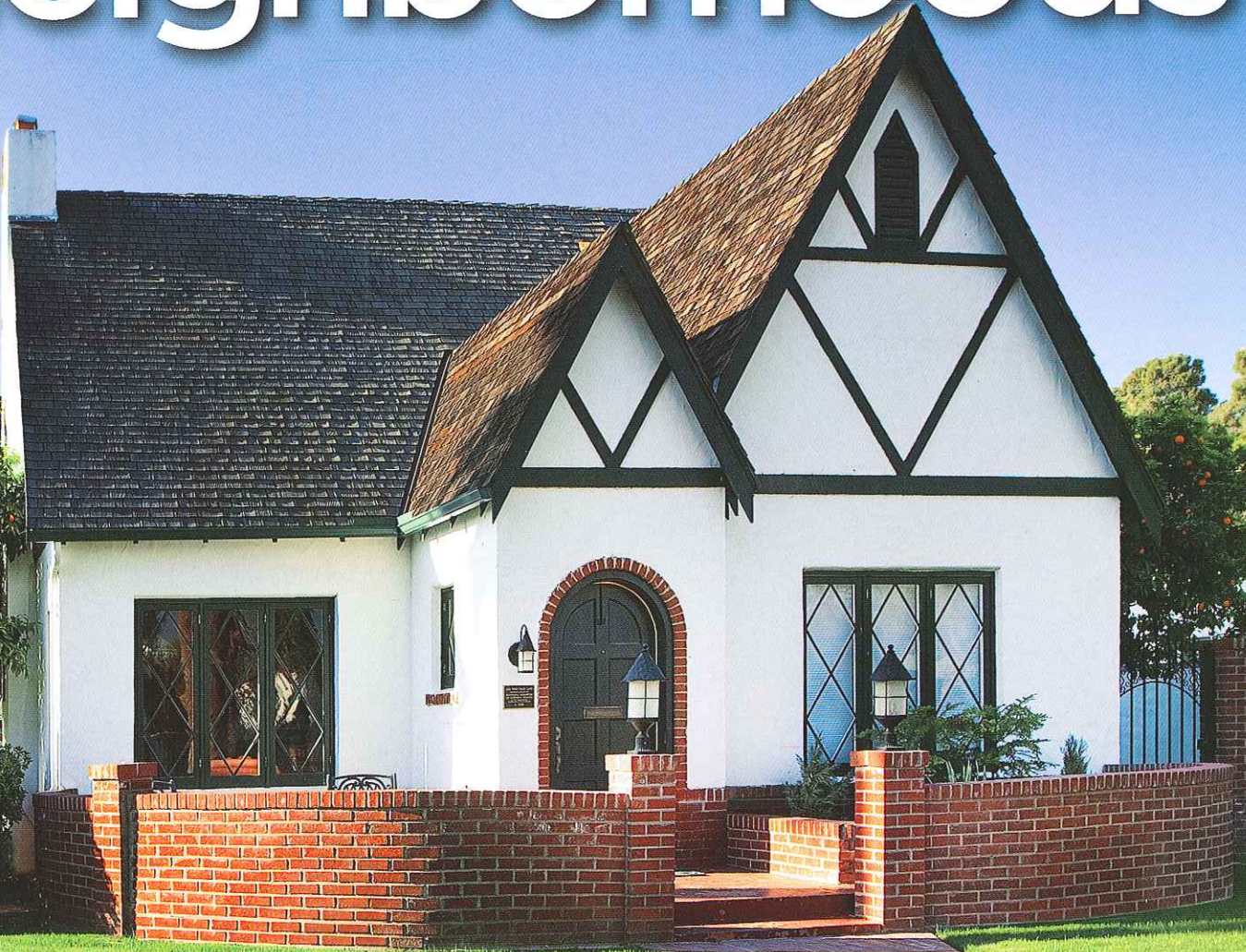


BEST PLACES TO LIVE *The best areas for families, foodies, health nuts & more!*

PHOENIX

Can't
Sell Your
House?
Swap It!
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21 Top Neighborhoods



+ WHERE TO STOCK UP FOR YOUR NEXT FIESTA
SMOKIN' IDEAS FOR YOUR OUTDOOR KITCHEN
DEATH OF THE SUBDIVISION: WHAT COMES NEXT?

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21 Top Neighborhoods

Forget numbers, headlines and foreclosure data for a moment and think back to when you entered the market as a home-buying newbie. Remember those days?

The house wasn't perfect, and the location probably could have been a few blocks better. The kitchen needed a makeover, or maybe the yard needed an intervention.

Still, there was always the house. It was shelter, an ideal place to raise a family or to claim a part of the world as your own.

In light of the real estate meltdown, that's the kind of vision we need to regain these days, says one real estate expert. "I really think the best place to live is where you want to *live*," says Diane Scherer, chief executive officer of the Phoenix Association of Realtors. "You have to look at the next 10 years, not the next six months."

So shove the numbers in a drawer and match your personality to 21 of the Valley's Best Places to Live. This is life beyond the "portfolio."

THE HEALTH NUT

North Scottsdale 85260

If being fit, healthy and beautiful is your No. 1 goal in life, north Scottsdale should be your neighborhood. Live anywhere along Loop 101 between Shea Boulevard and Pinnacle Peak Road, and you'll have abundant access to walking, hiking, biking and horseback riding trails at McDowell Mountain Park, Pinnacle Peak Park and the Central Arizona Project canal. (Heck, you could even find property to own your own horse.) You'll also be within throwing distance of several wellness-minded businesses.

The Edge on Wellness, for instance, is a one-stop hub for all your beauty, health and wellness needs, located at 92nd Street and Shea Boulevard. Here you can get a mani-pedi or variety of other salon services, get a quick lift with a Botox injection, enjoy a massage, gain a healthy perspective with a life-coaching session - or a healthy glow with a tanning session - pick up a new pair of sunglasses or consult with a nutritionist. The Edge also is home to CrossFit Scottsdale, which opened in October and already has plans to expand to a larger location due to its popularity. This strength-and-conditioning program offers more personal attention than your average gym class and much more accountability (owner and coach Luke Kayyem may send you a motivational text message if you miss a class).

For roughly \$200 to \$300 per month, CrossFit "students" train together in small classes and use their bodies and surrounding environment to get through a high-intensity workout. Remember those physical fitness tests you took in grade school? Push-ups, sit-ups, jump rope, etc.? It's like that, only much, much harder - and much more rewarding.

And in the event that your health takes a turn for the worse, you'll be surrounded by some of the best health care facilities in the Valley, with Scottsdale Healthcare Shea Hospital and Mayo Clinic Hospital - not to mention scores of doctors' offices - right in your neighborhood.