



GUY LOISI

- **Managing Partner of Rowland Luxury Homes, which has doubled in size over the last two years and, in 2006, won the Best in American Living Award and the Pacesetter Award**
- **Is currently leading staff on construction of 34 residential villas in the Montelucia Resort and Spa development in Paradise Valley**
- **Had his own construction business in Chicago and has acted as director of construction for major homebuilders nationwide, specializing in custom luxury residences**
- **Serves as a founding board member of the Golden Karma Awards and the nonprofit organization Success for Good**

Adapting To Desert Living Anything Is Possible

Uprooting my family from Chicago would be difficult, or at least that's what I thought. But, after a 20-day stretch of sub-zero temperatures, soul-sapping storms and no sunshine in Chicago, I decided to make it work, and my family and I made the move to Arizona. Searching for a strong community to raise my kids, I found an amazing place in Fountain Hills. The eastern slope of the McDowell Mountains adorns the landscape; the views are simply majestic. I am motivated by this landscape daily. My wife Anna and I quickly became very active in many local organizations such as the PTO. They say that it takes a village to raise a child: I've got three, so I need a very strong village! Because we want our children to learn by example, we give back to many communities in Arizona through donations to various charities such as AWEE, Greater Phoenix Urban League, Debbie Gaby's Catwalk for Charity, Habitat for Humanity, and the Leukemia Lymphoma Society. Most recently, I started sponsoring a team that is playing in the NABI (Native American Basketball Invitational) this summer.

Chicago is a beautiful place, but it just doesn't compare to Arizona. Arizona is a perfect place to build a home. In Chicago-land, we had many constraints due to frosts and winter shutdowns, the ground freezing, pipes bursting and late shipments due to weather conditions. When these things happened in Chicago, the train would stop. In Arizona, the train may slow down because of limited work hours and the heat, but it doesn't stop. The desert settings also have thorough potential for creative building. Inspiration is everywhere: the colors of the sands, the red mountains. I have had to adapt to building on hillside sites and to become very creative when it comes to hard dig and excavation. We have adapted to this so well that it has become an art form! Arizona is extremely diverse and multifaceted. Builders thrive in these kinds of conditions. Now and again we have to deal with strict guidelines for the preservation of native landscape; I recognize such guidelines have led to the call for builders familiar with green building. We should not only preserve our native landscape, but create a cooperative relationship between maintaining and building with the land. Arizona has really enhanced my perception of life. The beauty of landscape, quality of community and growth of economy exemplify that, truly, anything is possible. ■



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Association of Arizona Food Banks

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