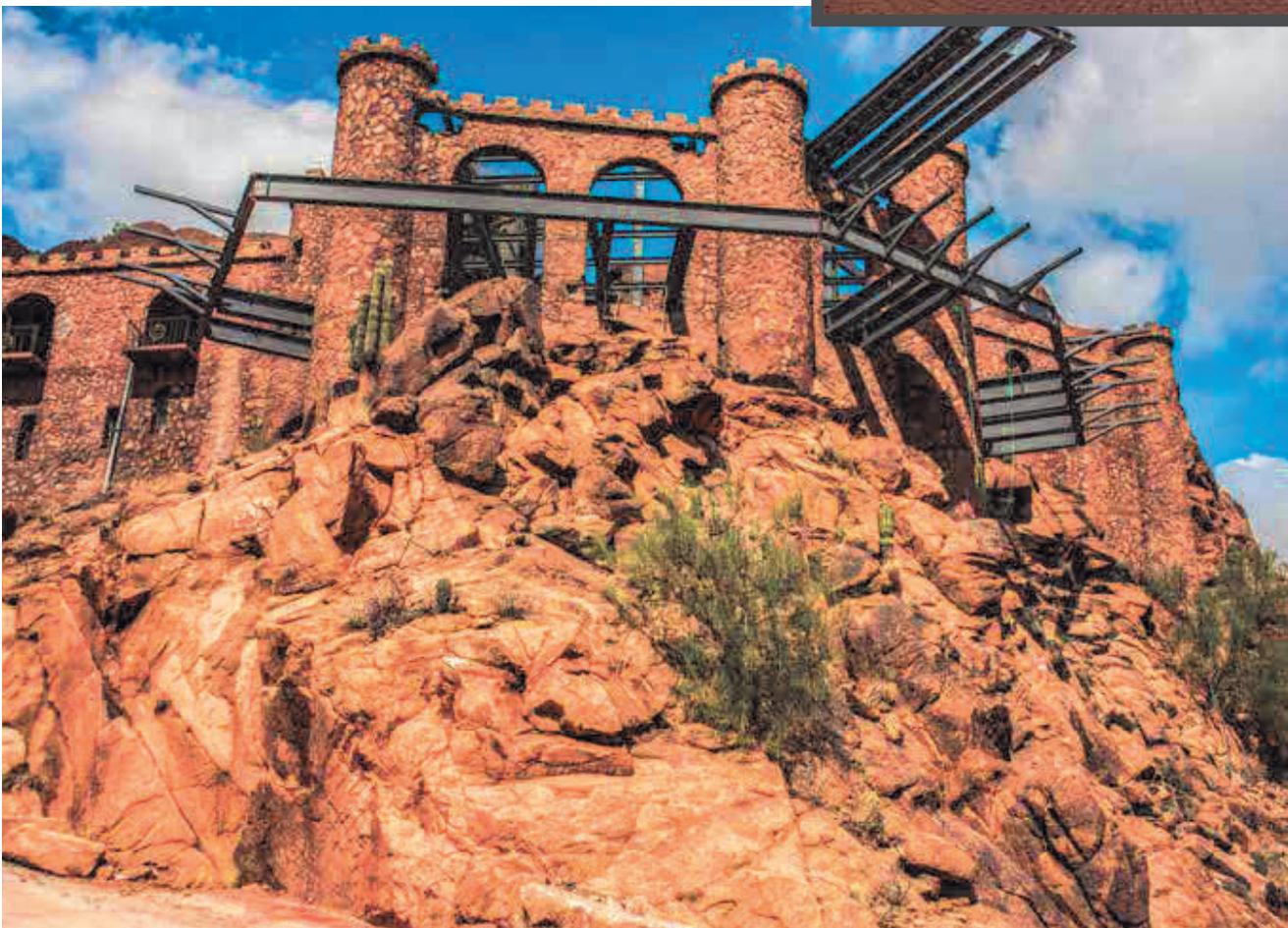
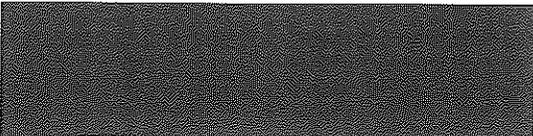


# Copenhaver Castle



 Copenhaver Castle



Atop Camelback Mountain is a 50-year-old castle that was started by dentist Mort Copenhaver. With no experience in architecture, Mort worked off a vision he sketched on a napkin and wanted to bring to life. He bought an inexpensive plot of land that was thought to be unbuildable and went to work with himself and a two-man crew. Over 12 years, the castle came to life, utilizing rock from Camelback Mountain. This made the castle blend beautifully into its surroundings and was an architectural feature that has made it stand out. The walls are 18 to 24 inches thick, with retaining walls that are 40 feet high. The craftsmanship shows as there are no stress cracks, even after 50 years.

Robert Pazderka, the castle's third owner, bought the castle in 2014 and is currently renovating it.

"Mort was using it for fundraisers for his charitable dental work. People would come tour it on the weekends, and he raised money to help those who couldn't afford needed dental work. My vision for the castle was to leave the front original and unchanged. I extended the deck to wrap around the front for a walk deck. I used the same stone look and kept the castle feel. We've added an auto court circle with large panes of 11-by-11-foot glass, inspired by the Louvre in Paris. You can look into the castle and see the old stone, and then windows open to a spectacular view of the city."

While Mort was eccentric in his elements of design—including a 22-person Jacuzzi, a skylight that opened and a fireplace with a waterfall in front of it—Robert has added more practical features, like double doors to open to a great room for added drama. However, the fireplace and water feature are still intact. Copenhaver will open for tours when complete.

*Information provided by Robert Pazderka,  
owner of Copenhaver Castle*