

Classical Pueblo style finds a new home

All elements combine to make this house the perfect home for the Suggs family

By MELISSA ST. AUDE
The Las Cruces Bulletin

Every family has a favorite spot in their home – that special place where everyone gathers for informal meals, to help one another with homework, plan family vacations or to simply sit and share hopes and dreams. For Wayne and Kiki Suggs of Classic New Mexico Homes, that special spot is a built-in table, beside the indoor pond overlooking the vast desert scenery and awe-inspiring Organ Mountains.

"This is the spot that people seem to gravitate to," said Kiki. "We'll do crossword puzzles here, eat here – it's just more casual and comfortable than the formal table."

Building homes with special spots – built-in benches, window seats, lofts and sunken offices – are among the qualities that make Classic New Mexico Homes projects unique and the Suggs included them all when building their own home, 3915 Desert Broom.

Classic New Mexico Homes prefers to build Pueblo style homes and their own home is no exception.

"Our building style is very traditional," Wayne said. "Everything in our homes has function, like the lintels and the vigas. They are beautiful and functional."

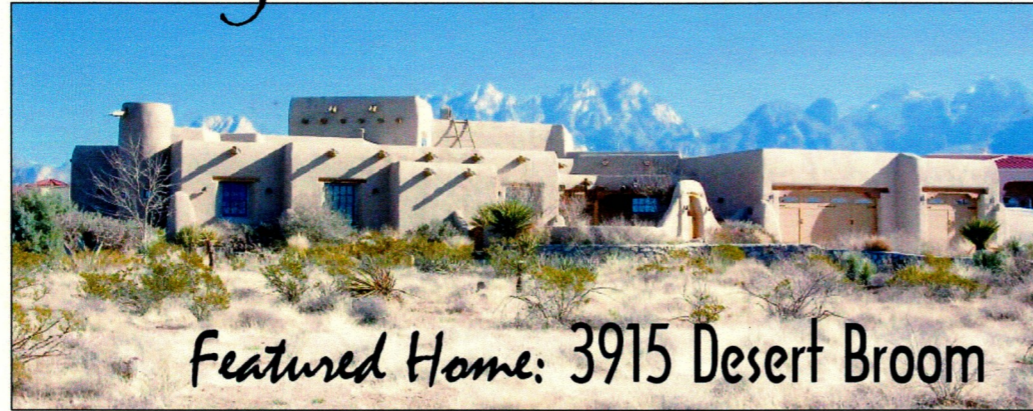
Built in the traditional Pueblo style, 3915 Desert Broom features thick walls, freeform adobe buttresses and exterior walls accented with a custom-built wooden front gate. Inside and out, the home features beams, corbels, vigas and lots of wooden accents.

Incorporating traditional Pueblo building style with the family's needs – room for the couple's 20-year old daughter and 17-year-old son and the family's pets – was a priority when building the home. Making the home look as though it were at home in its desert setting was equally important to the couple.

"We wanted that old house feel even though we were building a new house," Kiki said. "We wanted it to look like it had been here for a while."

Wayne has a passion for woodworking and the interior of the home is a testament to his work with handcarved corbels on each doorway, post and beam accents and vigas throughout the home. Set against red saltillo floor tiles and hand-textured walls, the wooden accents give the

FEATURED HOME PHOTOS BY I.M. CRAMER



Featured Home: 3915 Desert Broom

Set among native landscaping, 3915 Desert Broom features 3,000 square feet of indoor living space. See more feature home photos on page E6-7.

home a true desert personality.

A love of fishing inspired much of the home. Many of the family's favorite vacations have centered around fishing trips and Kiki said that incorporating fishing themes was an important element in designing the home. Vibrant red and earth-hued tiles combined with wooden vigas, tall posts and hand-carved corbels follow the theme.

"We specialize in adding character to a home through unique touches such as comfortable built-in window seats, wooden bancos and lintels," Wayne said. "We use as much native material as possible, such as adobe, flagstone, Douglas fir, cedar, rock, stone and saltillo tile."

A pond behind the built-in table further emphasizes the fishing theme and enhances the area as the family's favorite place in the home. Surrounded by lush green plants, Kiki said that the pond provides a tranquil element to the sometimes busy and frantic lives the family leads.

"I just love this pond," she said. "When we were building it, the neighbors didn't understand why we were putting a pond in the house, but now that they've seen it, many of them want one too."

A love for nature and a desire to protect the environment extend to the couple's homebuilding business. While building homes that seems at home in the desert setting, the company designs each project according to the site, beginning first by building a reinforcing wall around the homesite to protect native vegetation.

"One of our goals whenever we start a house is to leave the desert as pristine as possible," Wayne said. "We want the house to look like it's been here for a while and that it

belongs."

Designed to encourage family unity while providing ample space for privacy, the Suggs' home features a unique floor plan that includes three bedrooms and a sunken office on the lower level of the home. Crowned with ceilings of pine, the living room, kitchen, and dining areas are slightly raised. A pine staircase leads to a loft directly above the sunken office.

The Suggs' home has a large living room with a kiva-style fireplace in the corner and wooden built-in shelves. Large picture windows facing the mountains capture distant views.

A corner of the living room serves as Kiki's work area. An artist, Kiki paints portraits and native scenes as well as the hand-painted touches unique to Classic New Mexico Homes projects. Her artwork is also found throughout the family's home.

The home's kitchen overlooks the dining and living rooms and Kiki said it was designed around her love for cooking with easy-care tiled countertops, abundant cabinetry and a large walk-in pantry with ample storage.

Whether building their own home or one for their clients, the Suggs say they strive to make each home attractive, comfortable and perfectly suited for those who dwell inside.

"We take pride in creating homes that are not only a joy to live in, but that create a lasting impression on all who spend time in them," Wayne said.



A view of the Organ Mountains and desert scenery lend character to the dining room, while an indoor pond brings a bit of the outdoors in.



Kiki Suggs custom designed this photo display using framed photos, a curtain rod and ribbon. It hangs in the couple's master bedroom.



The home features oversized windows for exceptional viewing, saltillo floor tiles throughout and pine ceilings.



Featured Home: 3



With its unique floor plan, the home's master suite, bedrooms and sunken office are on one end of the main hallway, while the living room, dining room and kitchen are on a slightly higher level.

Details

Location
3915 Desert Broom

Builder
Wayne Suggs, New Mexico
Classic Homes

Square Footage
3,000

Number of bedrooms
Three, plus a loft

Number of bathrooms
Three

"We wanted that old house feel even though we were building a new house."

KIKI SUGGS
Homebuilder/Owner



Inspired by the family's love for fishing, the indoor pond is one of the family's favorite elements in the house.

