

California meets New Mexico

by Jessica Salopek
photographs by Jesse Ramirez

old Hollywood glamour and classic Pueblo style inspire the chic transformation of a historic Las Cruces home

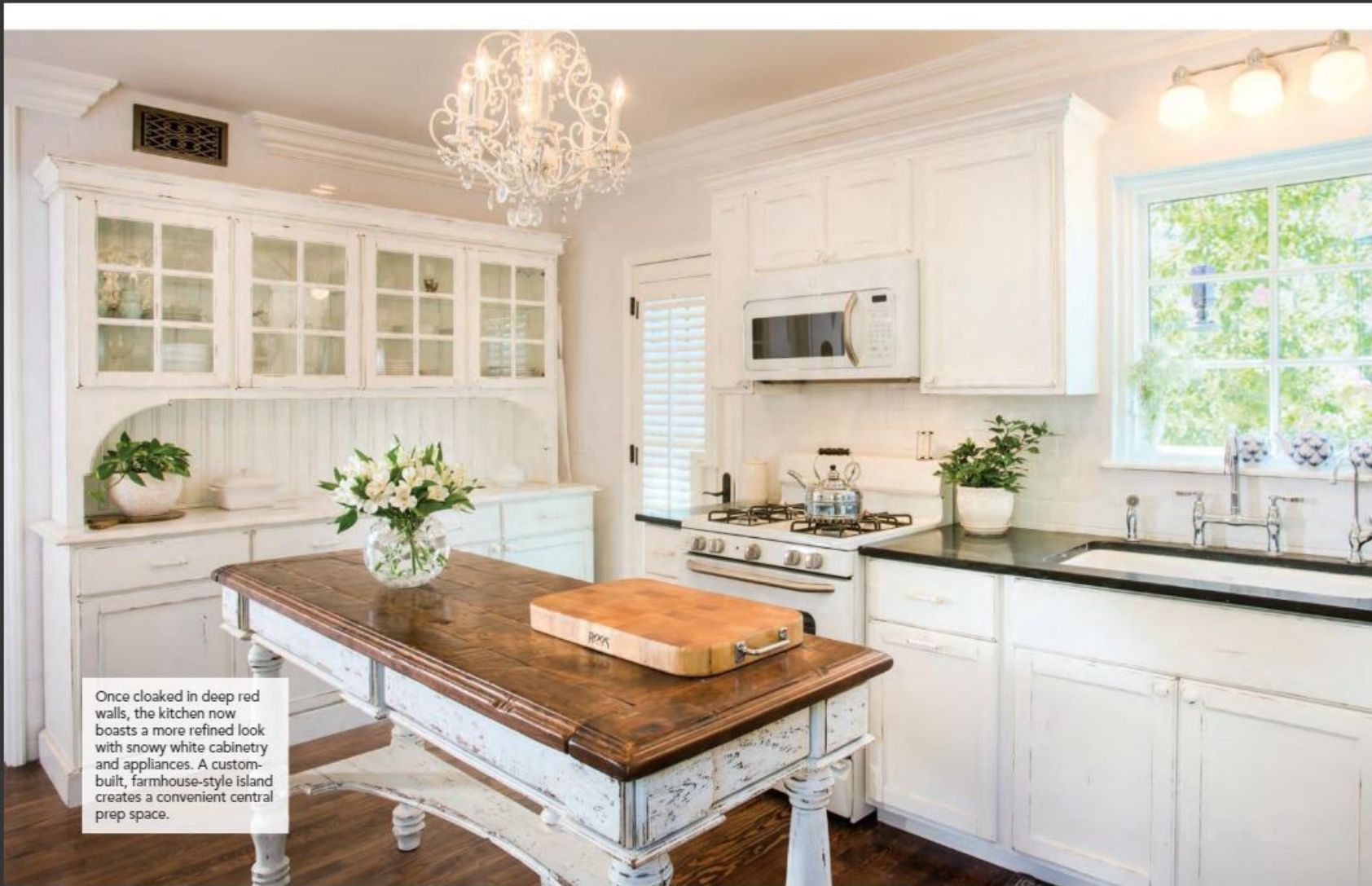
Every builder and designer eventually comes across that one project that is just too intriguing to pass up. For Kiki and Wayne Suggs, that job came in the form of a historic Las Cruces home. As the creative minds behind Classic New Mexico Homes, the Suggses specialize in custom builds accentuated by authentic Pueblo Revival elements. Kiki is known for adding extra touches of character with reclaimed and salvaged items. While their classic style and eye for detail are certainly evident in this charming home, followers of their work might notice that it has a slightly different vibe from their typical projects. "It's still a Pueblo-style home, but it was built in 1929, so the features are a little different," Kiki explains.

Though the Suggses do not typically take on remodel projects, they made a special exception in this case. The homeowner, Chris, originally hired them to add on a guest casita, with plans to revive the main home herself. She started with the kitchen, but when it just wasn't coming together the

Below: A dusty blue panel in the rock wall fits right in with the home's exterior style. Cross-like cutouts in the metal offer a peek into the home's "secret garden."

Set in a historic neighborhood in Las Cruces, this remodeled home gives off a peaceful ambience with the addition of shady trees and lush gardens. A charming gate opens into the courtyard and entryway, which is held up by rough-hewn beams that keep the home's architecture rooted in traditional Pueblo style.





Once cloaked in deep red walls, the kitchen now boasts a more refined look with snowy white cabinetry and appliances. A custom-built, farmhouse-style island creates a convenient central prep space.

A gleaming subway tile backsplash, dramatic black soapstone countertops, and a refurbished chandelier handed down from the homeowner's grandmother round out the kitchen's character.

way she'd hoped, she asked Wayne and Kiki for advice. "We were already working on-site, so we thought we may as well help out, and then it just kind of snowballed into a full overhaul of the house," Kiki remembers. "It was hard to turn down because this is a style we really love. We like homes that are a little more timeless."

Chris, who originally hails from California, says she envisioned old Hollywood glamour combined with some Pueblo-style elements to stay true to the area and the home's original design. She already had a solid grouping of furniture and décor items for Kiki to build on. "It's a really special property, and Chris has extremely good taste, in my opinion," Kiki says. "Like me, she's drawn to that rustic elegance of shiny stuff, mixed in with distressed elements. I knew we would work well together, and we did. We had a blast putting it all together."

"They began by opening up the archways to create a more open flow between the kitchen, dining, and living areas. They replaced all the existing single-pane windows that were rotting away, and added several more win-

downs throughout the home to let in extra light. Each of the interior slab doors was replaced with five-panel doors, but Kiki managed to reclaim the original hardware to use on the new doors. The sunken laundry room floor was raised and topped with brick tile, while the other original wood flooring throughout the home was refinished and polished.

In the kitchen, the walls went from a confining burgundy hue to bright white. The Suggses' secret weapon, woodworker Greg Duff, updated the cabinetry with new door fronts. He also custom-built a vintage style dish hutch and a wood-topped island. A gleaming subway tile backsplash, dramatic black soapstone countertops, and a refurbished chandelier handed down from the homeowner's grandmother round out the room's character.



A cozy fireplace—original to the home—gives the living room some New Mexican flair, while a gleaming mirror and light fixtures add to the glamorous, old Hollywood style.



Above: The light-filled dining room adjacent to the kitchen provides a casual dining space complete with varied seating. French doors open out to the home's back patio.



Left: When it came to décor, homeowner Chris kept things elegantly minimal by combining meaningful pieces with one or two matching accents.



Right: In the master bath, homebuilder and designer Kiki Suggs hand-stenciled delicate patterns onto the coffered ceiling.




Above: A white, clawfoot tub complete with vintage-style fixtures adds old-fashioned appeal to the master bath. In the master bedroom (top), charmingly mismatched furniture plays well with the room's airy, laid-back vibe. Matching light fixtures, greenery, and similar paint colors downplay the contrast.

One of the most dramatic changes in the home took place in the master bath. The oddly placed shower stall was replaced with a freestanding bathtub, and the existing master closet was usurped to give the room extra space. (A large walk-in was added to the suite to make amends.) Duff replaced the pedestal sink with a marble-topped vanity, and Kiki contributed an old medicine cabinet from her own collection of antique finds. Kiki also brought in an Italian-framed mirror—from MVS Studios in Downtown Las Cruces—with subtle hints of green. She used it as color inspiration while hand stenciling the ceiling design and ordering handmade inlay for the backsplash in what she thought was the same hue. When it showed up in a much too deep forest green, she painted it white, distressed it, and resealed it to make it work in the space—"and I love the way it turned out better than the original idea," she adds.

"I've always loved the 1920s homes in California. Classic New Mexico Homes managed to bring out that elegance—and throw in those rustic Pueblo touches."
—Chris, homeowner

The home's outdoor spaces also received a major overhaul. New front-facing stucco walls created a charming gated entryway, while a tall stone wall along the entire west side of the home created what Kiki calls "a secret garden—where Chris can drink coffee in the morning." The new guest casita in the back effectively walled in the home's backyard, creating a large, open courtyard. A dilapidated porch was removed, the space anchored with an in-ground swimming pool, and then the Suggses added their special touches—an outdoor shower, a tile mural, and a kiva fireplace on the casita's patio.

Although it's a completely new addition to the house, the casita is Classic New Mexico Homes' old-world style at its best.




Kitchen Kraft


For The Total Home

Kitchen Kraft Home


*The Regions Largest Selection of Kitchens
Furniture, Lighting and More!*



Custom Kitchen Cabinetry
Counter tops & Backsplashes



Large Selection of Furniture
Lighting and Accessories



HunterDouglas® Window Fashions

980 N. Telshor Blvd | 575 525 8466 | www.kitchenkrafthome.com



TORRES WELDING, Inc.

Serving Las Cruces & El Paso for 32 Years

ORNAMENTAL IRON

- Entrada Doors
- Custom Gates
- Spiral Staircases
- Wall & Window Treatments
- Fencing & Handrails

COMMERCIAL FABRICATION

- Metal Buildings
- Custom Fabrication of Metals

575-526-1648

Fax: 575-525-8636

PO Box 383 • Fairacres, NM 88033 • www.torreswelding.com



Below: The covered outdoor living room encloses the backyard and lends an added space for entertaining and hosting visitors. A built-in kiva fireplace warms the area, making it usable even during cooler months.



Above: Formerly one large space with a run-down porch, the backyard was re-created to include an in-ground pool and elevated spa surrounded by verdant trees and shrubs.

Opposite: The outdoor areas feature familiar Pueblo and Southwestern style elements—earthy planters, a bright, tiled mural, and a Santo.



All of the doors were salvaged from old homes on the East Coast. The kitchen cabinets were distressed to appear aged, and cottonwood vigas from the torn down back porch were repurposed in the ceiling, solidifying the illusion that it was built at the same time as the main house. And since Chris asked Kiki for "the complete package," she rounded out the casita's décor with a framed Henriette Wyeth proof that she picked up at the Hurd-La Rinconada Gallery in San Patricio, New Mexico.

"I asked Wayne and Kiki for a little piece of paradise, and they completely exceeded my

Happy to serve Las Cruces & El Paso

C&D

Southwest Lumber Corp.

Largest Selection of Cedar in the Southwest!



Everything you Need to give your Outdoor Living Space that *Southwest* feel!

Specializing In:

Vigas ♦ Beams ♦ Latillas
Corbels ♦ Pergolas
Rough Cut Lumber

575-526-2131

500 N. 17th Street
Las Cruces, NM 88005

STOUT

HARDWOOD FLOOR CO., INC.
SINCE 1938

NEW and REFINISHED HARDWOOD FLOORS

Serving Las Cruces & El Paso since 1928



Remodel your home with new hardwood floors or re-finish your existing floors.

575-527-4143 695 S. Compress Ste. 1 Las Cruces, NM 88005

www.stout-hardwood-floors.com


STONEHOUSE ■ ■ ■
GRANITE & MARBLE
 VISIT OUR SHOWROOM TO VIEW TYPES & PATTERNS




Granite - Marble - Quartz - Onyx - Natural Stone
 Kitchens - Bathrooms - Fireplaces - Beverage Bars
 Select From Our Many Finishes and Edges
 Custom Cabinetry Available
 Complete Installation


915 588 9842
 2601 East Missouri El Paso, TX 79902
 Email: stonehouse@elp.rr.com www.stonehouseegm.com



Above: A private, comfortable patio and garden outside of the kitchen is the perfect place for Chris to relax outdoors.

expectations," says the more-than-pleased homeowner. "I've always loved the 1920s homes in California. Classic New Mexico Homes managed to bring out that elegance—and throw in those rustic Pueblo touches. It's such a lovely mix, and they do it so well."

resources

- Builder and Designer**
Classic New Mexico Homes
classicnmhomes.com
- Appliances**
Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery
- Cabinetry**
Greg Duff, Classic New Mexico Homes
- Flooring**
Stout Hardwood Floor Co., Inc.
stout-hardwood-floors.com
- Paint and Wall Treatments**
Heart of the Sun, LLC
- Pool & Spa**
Dolphin Pools
- Windows**
Pella Windows and Doors
pellasw.com


Your 1st Choice For Quality Residential Audio & Video
 SERVING EL PASO SINCE 1990
 Commercial & Residential Sales & Installations

- Home Theaters
- HD Projection
- Multi-Room Audio
- Android/Apple Control
- Lighting Control
- Digital Media
- CCTV
- Service & Install
- Home Automation









Get 10% off with This Ad.
 For more information email us at: hps@hpsav.com
 5813 Paisano Dr. El Paso, TX 79925 | 915.772.3311

WHETHER REMODELING OR BUILDING A NEW HOME - WE HAVE THE PERFECT CABINETRY FOR YOU
 12 YEARS SERVING SOUTH NEW MEXICO AND WEST TEXAS

VISIT OUR BEAUTIFUL SHOWROOM



Custom Countertops — Granite, Quartz and Stone
Transform Your Living Space
 WE SPECIALIZE IN KITCHEN & BATH REMODELS • BE INSPIRED... WE'LL DO THE REST




www.cabinetsbysherwood.com
 LAS CRUCES SHOWROOM | 609 E Amador Ave | 575-647-1509

Feel the Warmth **HEAT & GLO**
 No one builds a better fire





Gas, Wood & Electric Fireplaces - Inserts - Logs

FOR YOUR HOME

- SKYLIGHTS - Many Style
- GARAGE DOORS & Hardware
- INT & EXT. LIGHTING
- SHOWER ENCLOSURES
- HARDWARE - Door & Bath

DOORS

- CUSTOM MADE Wood Entry Doors
- IRON & STEEL - Entry Doors
- INTERIOR WOOD DOORS
- FIBERGLASS - for Long Lasting



LAS CRUCES
 2355 Nevada
 575 - 524 - 3568

EL PASO
 12277 Rojas
 915 - 791 - 0100

HOURS
 M - F 7:00 - 5:30
 SAT 8:00 - 3:00 (LC)



www.rawsonbuilderssupply.com