



Featured home: 4703 Grider Road

Photos by Niki Rhynes



The 3,007-square-foot home at 4703 Grider Road sits on 1 acre and is surrounded by 23 pecan trees and various plants and flowers.



The living room features a kiva fireplace, nichos and numerous windows for natural light.

Trees enclose the atrium.



Red tile and hand-crafted cabinets add flair to the rustic kitchen.



Saltillo tile is used throughout the adobe home, including in the master bedroom.



About 100 hand-peeled vigas can be found in the home. In addition to being load bearing, the vigas complement the tongue-and-groove ceiling.

A new take on the traditional pueblo

No detail was spared in this residence created by Classic New Mexico Homes

By **Beth Sitzler**
Las Cruces Bulletin

A traditional pueblo adobe home married with the lush green surrounding of the Mesilla Valley is closer than one might think.

Kiki and Wayne Suggs, owners of Classic New Mexico Homes, did just that when they decided in 1989 to build a 3,007-square-foot, all-adobe home on 1 acre of property off of North Valley Drive at 4703 Grider Road.

The property, owned by Wayne Suggs' parents, was nestled in a pecan orchard, creating a dilemma for the duo who wanted the second home they built to be environmentally friendly.

"They only took out two trees and built the home in the orchard in the shape of an 'H,' with a front- and center-courtyard," said David Burleson, who purchased the residence from the Suggs in 2001. "They also put the two pecan trees back into the home."

"We specifically designed this house around the trees," Kiki Suggs said. "The biggest challenge was the design. We didn't want to take out too many trees."

Suggs said they worked tirelessly to construct every aspect of the home, including the cabinets and interior doors as well as throwing

mud to cover each parapet.

"A lot of love went into this home," she said. "It was incredibly labor intensive."

The home's special style begins with its landscape. Burleson said 29 various trees in addition to 23 pecan trees surround the property. Grass and gravel lead to several vegetable and flower gardens found around the home.

"I put in a lot of flowers," Burleson said. "I like a lot of color."

A plaza-style brick courtyard greets guests. In addition to a lone pecan tree in its center, the front courtyard features periwinkles and ivy.

"Salttilo tile leads from the courtyard into the home, which includes exposed adobe walls.

Wood played an important role in the pueblo-inspired structure. The Suggs included pine and cedar as well as more than 100 load-bearing spruce vigas, which they peeled by hand.

"It was extremely difficult," Suggs laughed.

Deviating from the traditional, the Suggs used curved wood columns, not straight, throughout the home.

"That's what gives the home so much character and charm, it's not all right angles and perfect," Burleson said.

Suggs said their goal was to make the home look as if it had graced the landscape for years.

"People say this house looks like it is 100, 125 years old," Burleson said.

To the left of the entrance is the commons area, complete with kitchen, atrium, living room and a second master suite.

Burleson said one of his favorite areas is the kitchen, which includes a potbelly stove, built-in table and bench, skylight and fiery red tile — the hardest to make, Suggs said.

"The first thing that got me when I walked into this house was the red tile," Burleson said.

Next to the kitchen is a specially designed atrium. The rock and tile area includes small trees and bougainvilleas that climb up the frosted window. Burleson said this area is perfect for enjoying a cup of coffee and the crisp morning light.

"This is really a very rare one-of-a-kind home," said Realtor Kaye Miller of Steinborn GMAC Real Estate, who represents the listing.

The living room features a 16-foot ceiling, kiva fireplace and Talavera tile accents. A weight-bearing shepherd's bed can also be found in the room.

To separate the second master bedroom from the other bedrooms, the Suggs used grey wood they took from an old barn in Peñasco, N.M., and whitewashed the exposed adobe.

"We just wanted that room to be different," Suggs said. "I thought the white went well with the grey wood."

A kiva fireplace adds warmth to the room while saloon doors cleverly hide the tile-decorated bathroom.

Down the long hallway are the other bedrooms, including the master suite.

While large windows showcase the green landscape and a kiva fireplace adds elegance to the room, it was the bathroom discreetly closed behind a half wall that Burleson couldn't resist.

"After the red tile in the kitchen, this is what hooked me," Burleson said.

Covered in green and white tile with flowers, the oversized bathroom has two sinks, a jetted bathtub and a specially designed shower with a bench and two showerheads.

With six points of entry, the outside of the home is just as important as the indoor living spaces. The center courtyard, covered in brick and topped with wisteria, acts as an extra entertainment area, Burleson said.

The home includes a grey water system to care for the surrounding plants.

"We installed it for conservation, and the plants love it. They grow three times higher with it," Suggs said.

Another green feature is the derbigum roof, which is a vulcanized rubber material with a reflective white coating.

"With the roof and the trees hanging over the home, it stays very cool in the summer," Burleson said.

With more and more cookie-cutter homes popping up, Miller said this residence is a refreshing twist on a traditional style.

"It has unique touches of love," she said. "It's also very unique in its setting. It's in a rural setting, but is only five minutes from town."

Over the nine years Burleson has lived in the home, he said the Suggs

have been over several times to touch up the adobe, conduct other repairs and build a friendship.

"After experiencing the charm of living in that adobe home, there is no better place to live," Burleson said.

Over the nine years Burleson has lived in the home, he said the Suggs



Designed in the shape of an "H," the home features two courtyards.