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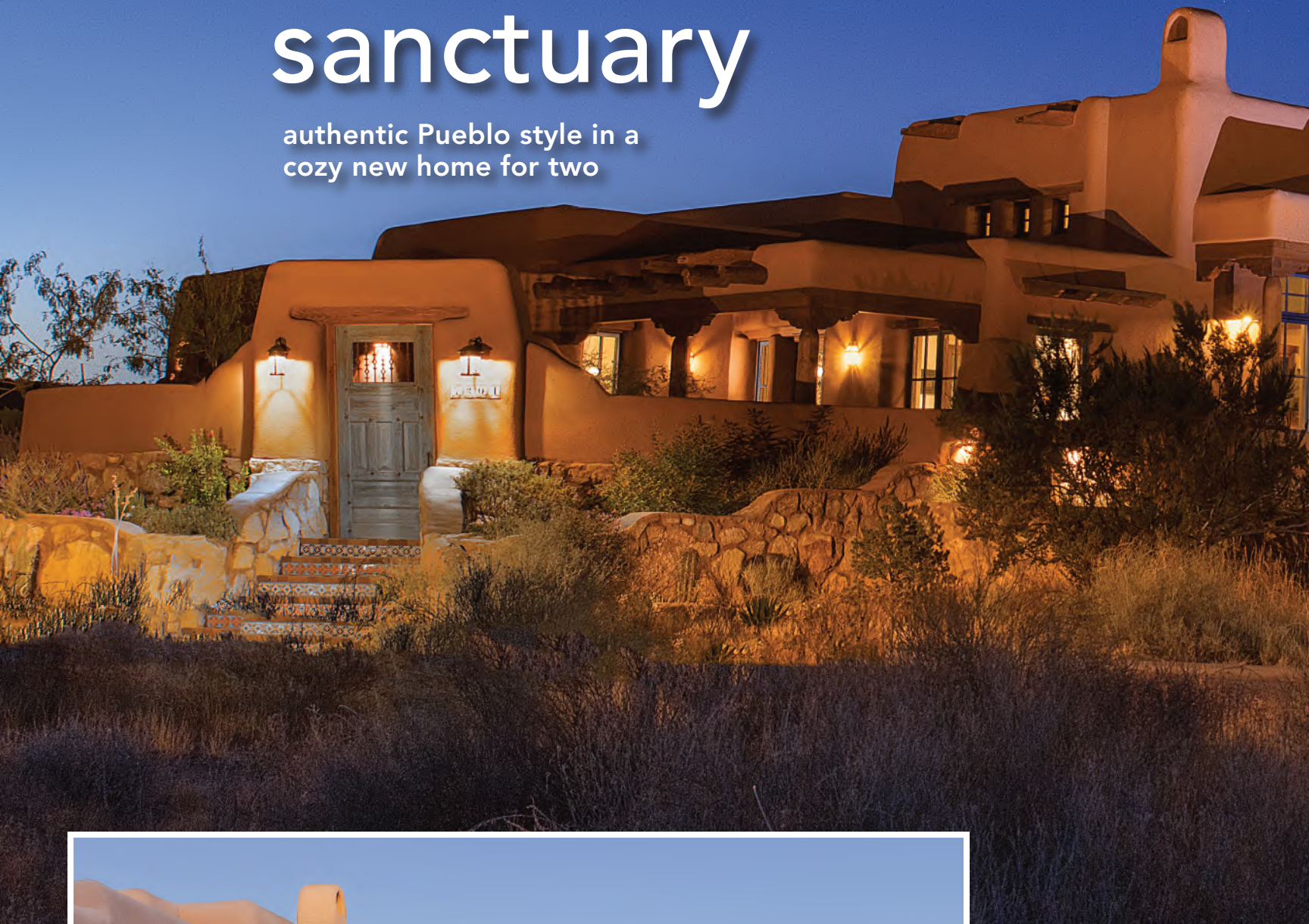
Southwestern sanctuary

classic Pueblo style
in Las Cruces

transitional
+ trending

Southwestern sanctuary

authentic Pueblo style in a
cozy new home for two



Left: The exterior of the newly built home exudes charm, with rustic gates that lead in and out of the courtyard. Softened edges and rounded corners add to the home's authentic, historic feel.



Sprawled over the desert landscape of New Mexico, Shirley and Ron's Las Cruces home is rooted in Pueblo-style aesthetics, including an adobe structure, wooden components, and earthy colors.

Vintage and antique finds stand out in Shirley and Ron's newly built Las Cruces home, literally from the moment you walk through the antique front door Shirley found on eBay. "I knew I wanted it for the house," she explains proudly. A repeating theme throughout the classic adobe home is a sophisticated combining of old and new—collections of unique finds from light fixtures to washstands to doors. This is the home the couple always dreamed of having, but Shirley admits, it was a long process to get everything (including finding a great location) done just right.

After retiring from their jobs in Delaware and Maryland, Ron and Shirley got serious about choosing the perfect place

to settle down. "We're kind of rationalists, so we made a long list of what we wanted," notes Shirley. "We didn't want a big metropolitan area—that's where we've been living for 30 years. I wanted to get away from the crowds and traffic and we had both lived in California as young adults, so we both wanted to go back out West."

Thinking fondly of her great-grandmother and other relatives who once lived in Las Cruces, something clicked for Shirley. "It just seemed like a great combination of things. It's quiet and beautiful, not too crowded, and we love being outdoors—Las Cruces is a great place for that," she says. But the real "aha" moment came during a drive through Las Cruces on



"I wanted green in the kitchen; I find it to be a soothing color that gives life, but does not overwhelm," says Shirley. Woodworker Greg Duff custom-made the island as well as the contrasting kitchen cabinetry.



Forgoing trending colors like gray and white, the homeowners chose to fill their new home with warm tones and accessories reflecting rustic, Southwestern culture.

a cross-country road trip. "You have that experience of driving over the West Mesa coming in on I-10," says Shirley. "It's just so gosh darn beautiful."

From the kitchen and living room, a sprawling living space captures views of the city Shirley and Ron now call home.

After deciding that Southern New Mexico was the best place for them, Shirley and Ron went to work—long distance from the East Coast—purchasing a lot for their new home and finding a builder. The work of Wayne and Kiki Suggs of Classic New Mexico Homes stood out right away. "We were impressed right from the get-go," Shirley remembers. "We explained our situation and they actually went out to the lot we purchased to look around and really see it. Not a lot of people would do that."



Above: The home's design features a variety of looks on the ceilings. In the living room, traditional heavy, wooden vigas draw the eye upward to take in the entire room.



Left: The combination dining and living area uses the design rule of three for the placement of light fixtures. Each antique fixture makes a graceful statement.



Front and center, a clawfoot tub gives the master bathroom timeless style.

Calling it a “very collaborative experience,” Shirley, Ron, and the Suggses worked together to create a traditional adobe-style home complete with all the decorative details Classic New Mexico Homes is so well known for: antique finishes, custom woodwork by Greg Duff, and warm colors that reflect New Mexico’s landscape and culture.

“If you look carefully, things are not always exactly symmetrical, nor should they be—because that’s part of the charm of the house.”
—Shirley, homeowner

Similar to many homes in this vernacular, Ron and Shirley’s features traditional, rounded architectural elements and ample natural light. In the main living area—where the living room, kitchen, and dining room all come together in one open space—large windows highlight the mountain views, while a kiva fireplace adds to the warm ambience.

“We wanted an open floor plan, but we still wanted to feel cozy,” explains Shirley. “The fireplace is built by hand of adobe brick so it has a very organic feel. If you look carefully, things are not always exactly symmetrical, nor should they be—because that’s part of the charm of the house.”

The kitchen embodies traditional Pueblo style, from the architecture down to the color palette and tile backsplash carefully selected by Ron. To add her own touch, Shirley opted for an island with cabinetry in a soothing green color she saw in the Suggses’ own home. Avoiding “cookie cutter” details, Shirley and Kiki sourced antique items such as hardware for the cabinetry and an old-fashioned chandelier, given a gray-green patina finish by Duff, for the space above their dining table. A butler’s pantry to the side of the kitchen keeps small appliances and other kitchen items hidden away thanks to a decorative, stained glass sliding door.

In Shirley and Ron’s master bedroom, windows in every direction offer direct views to different parts of the city. Built-in bookcases



A shower in the master bathroom is wrapped in contrasting textures, from a floor adorned with stone, to bold mosaic tiles.



Above: In the powder room, a desk-turned-vanity is a nostalgic reminder of a beloved antique find: an English wash stand once owned by Shirley.

provide Shirley a place to display family photos and heirlooms, as well as interesting items she's found and collected over the years. "It adds so much charm to our room to have those little features, and all the wooden elements, of course," she says.

Yet another collaboration between homeowner and homebuilder, the master bath is one of the home's standout spaces. "It's funny, I remember agonizing over this bathroom, wondering if it would all come together because it had such eclectic parts, but I think it really works," says Shirley. A clawfoot tub is front and center, enclosed by off-white adobe walls and heavy wooden beams on the ceiling. Around the corner, the hidden shower is

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When it comes to the design of every Classic New Mexico Home, it's all about the details. Elements like cheery patchwork tiles and colorful gates, doors, and window frames are signature to the homebuilder's style.





Now in an area where the weather is mild year-round, Shirley and Ron enjoy sipping coffee by the outdoor fireplace and listening to the relaxing sounds of a trickling rock waterfall outdoors.



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Left: An immediate draw for the homeowners was the lot's positioning, which takes advantage of panoramic views of the Organ Mountains and Mesilla Valley.

decked out in a combination of white, blue, and green tiles with long, vertical windows that bathe the area in natural light.

Shirley and Ron enjoy the outdoors, and the design of their outdoor areas was as important as everything inside. Leading from the kitchen and living room, a sprawling living space includes a kiva fireplace, a dining table, and a hot tub—all with views of the city they now call home.

While some build their new houses with intentions of entertaining, ultimately Shirley and Ron are more interested in comfortable retirement in their new abode, far from the hustle and bustle of bigger cities. They couldn't be happier. "This is our dream house," Shirley says emphatically. "We're just so lucky we found Kiki and Wayne, and we're so lucky they were able to build for us. We wanted everything to come together as an organic whole, and I really think it does." 



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A sliding pantry door found in Bisbee, Arizona, dates to the 1800s.



The spacious kitchen is vibrant but cozy, and just the right size for the two homeowners.

resources

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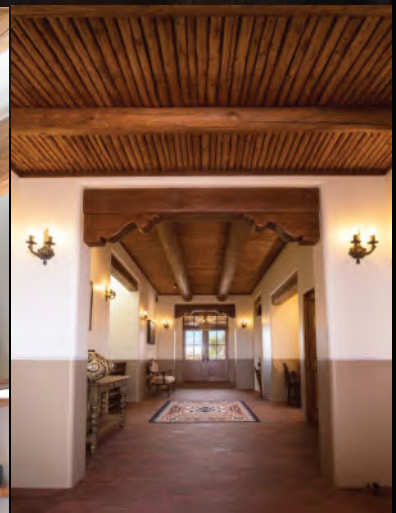
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