

Santa Fe REAL ESTATE Guide

Artisan/craftsman/**builder**

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How to create a home? Know thyself!

by Kurt Faust

Each of us wants to make our home environment comfortable and to our own liking. Whether we own or rent, we have the freedom to choose the colors, textures, and objects we use to furnish our homes. Each of these choices adds to the overall ambience in making our home uniquely our own. Building a home from scratch provides an opportunity to gather elements together and create a home that enhances our lifestyle and enriches our sense of well being. No matter what your situation take the next few moments to get in touch with what enhances your capacity to thrive and what helps you feel supported by your home.

Every home has a kitchen, living and dining rooms, a certain number of bedrooms, bathrooms, etc. The relationship of these rooms defines how a home functions and feels. At different times we all need space to entertain, relax, study, bathe, cook, sleep, and be with family. Is there a need for more privacy between one part of your home and another? Do you need a space for paying bills, for meditation, or for a luxurious bath with candles all around? The goal is to get in touch with what is important to you and what inspires you.

Think through what works about the house you are living in. Recall whose house you love and why. What is most important? Is it location, view, size, or other amenities? Get specific - for example, is light important to you? If so, notice the quality of light at different times of day. Early morning often has a softness and glow about it. Winter sun is different than that of high summer. Late afternoon light comes streaming in with its own brilliance. A full moon cascading through centrally located skylights can have a remarkable effect.

Educate your eye. Start a library of ideas and put them in a binder or a spare drawer in your home. Tear out pictures from magazines of things that catch your eye. Even if it is just a whimsey, tear it out and keep it. Collect picture books and place sticky tabs on your favorite pages. Explore color and texture, shape and scale. Do you like the simplicity of an unadorned open space or do you like the pattern created by layers on layers of wood, stone, and plaster. Ask your friends what they like or dislike. Question every detail you encounter and listen intently for very subtle or quiet answers.



Kurt Faust is an artist, blacksmith, cabinetmaker, and homebuilder. He owns Tierra Concepts, Inc. and Taos Furniture with his two partners Eric Faust & Keith Gorges.

As a mental exercise to help you decide what is essential, think of each and every thing you own. What is most important to you? Is it an item of sentimental value, beauty, or utility? If you had to get rid of three-quarters of it, what would you keep? Why? Use this information to help you get rid of the clutter in your life. Reduce your "stuff" to only what is necessary.

You may choose to pare down, remodel, build, or just dream. In any event, learning about your personal aesthetic and what is important to you will help you feel more at home in your own home. Know thyself and your home will reflect that beauty.

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