

Santa Fe REAL ESTATE Guide

Artisan/craftsman/**builder**

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Contemporary architecture is *in* in Santa Fe

by Kurt Faust

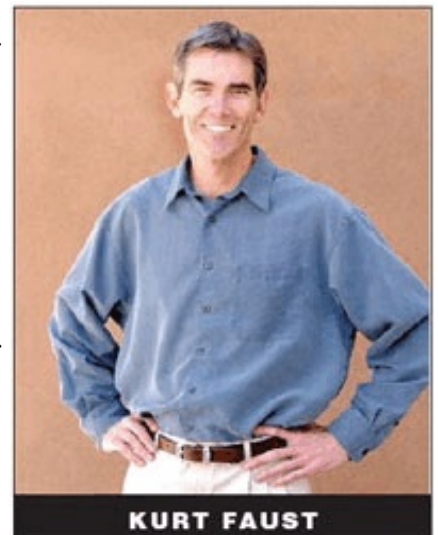
Congratulations to Hurlocker Homes for winning the Grand Hacienda Award in this year's Haciendas: A Parade of Homes. This is the first time in the history of the tour that a truly "contemporary" home has won this prestigious award. Michael Hurlocker has consistently championed the contemporary aesthetic. Over the years he has built many homes in this style and many of them have been designed by architect Bob Zachry.

Santa Fe Style is beginning to shift from what we generally accepted as "the style". The "New Old Santa Fe Style" was conceived in the late 1800s and actively nurtured in the early 1900s by various artists and business leaders of Santa Fe. The modern era was bringing numerous influences, especially architectural, which began to make Santa Fe look like any other town in the country and the artists of the time knew that the unique culture of Santa Fe was disappearing. The business leaders at the time knew they needed something to stem the economic decline which was caused by the new railroad causing the demise of the Santa Fe Trail, and choosing Bernalillo instead of Santa Fe as the main trade route.

These people proposed the first architectural guidelines and promoted it as the "New Old" style. This style took from all of the local architectural idioms and with the "artist's eye" combined them to create a unique look. This regional style culminated in the architecture of John Gaw Meem, the Historic District Zoning Ordinance, and, over time, the remodel of the Plaza to coincide with this look.

Santa Fe style has been interpreted by many people and has evolved, with a range of expression, often connected to the economic niche being served. Think of all the Stamm homes built after WW II. Think of the style of homes in Eldorado and in Las Campanas.

It is significant that a contemporary style Santa Fe home has won the Grand Hacienda Award this year. This event signifies the direction the market is heading. This year's Parade has the most numbers ever of contemporary homes participating and for the first time ever the parade judges were working professional architects brought in from out of state.



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.

In the past few years we have seen many houses combining some contemporary features with many of the common features of the Pueblo style. Contemporary interpretations will not replace traditional Santa Fe style anytime soon but what we are seeing is broader acceptance for more contemporary styling. It is a natural progression of the artistic process. Many local designers are tired of the old style, wanting something that is fresh and new to take us away from over-used and stale. The creative process always pushes the boundaries of what is expected and accepted.

Although my personal taste runs to liking soft round corners and hand tooled surfaces, there is a similarity to the use of simple forms which either style shares. Ultimately the success of any architecture is related to how people feel about it and there is a certain simplicity of form that transcends either style.

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