



# SuCasa

Southwest Homes

garden harvest  
+ recipes  
touchless  
home  
products

inspiration ideas resources

a house  
for the ages  
modern luxe  
& traditional Southwest

stunning  
kitchens

the place to be  
a gorgeous backyard  
renovation



# a house for the ages

a Santa Fe couple harmoniously  
blends modern luxe with traditional  
Southwestern aesthetics







by Jessa Cast    photographs by Daniel Nadelbach

**I**t all started with James Hunsaker's mother's best friend. In the 1980s she invited his mother to spend summers in Santa Fe. Pretty soon a trip to Santa Fe was a regular affair for the whole family. By the mid-2000s, both James' brothers bought homes there. Slowly, the family was migrating from Texas to New Mexico. James and his wife Wendy, after living abroad for a decade, missed time with their families. It was a trip to Santa Fe in July 2018 that finally broke the camel's back. They were visiting for a family birthday gathering. "He missed playing golf with his brothers," says Wendy. And the next day they were looking at property.

They toured existing homes, but nothing enchanted them. Sensing an underlying desire to build, their Realtor connected the Hunsakers with Keith Gorges at Tierra Concepts, Inc., an award-winning design-build company in Santa Fe. Gorges was in the early stages of building a spec home on a three-acre lot in Las Campanas. The Hunsakers, upon visiting the site and reviewing the blueprints, loved it. "When we saw Keith's design, it was better than anything we could have dreamed of," says James. Noting the plentiful natural light in the plan, James adds, "he had me at 25 skylights." The Hunsakers snapped it up and, with only a few modifications to the plans — an additional shower, a bar and a rooftop deck — the spec-turned-custom home was theirs.

For interior finish work, Gorges brought in Annie O'Carroll Interior Design, with whom Tierra Concepts has worked closely for more than 15 years. With 25 years in the business, O'Carroll knows a talented client when she meets one, and credits the Hunsakers with an admirable aesthetic vision. "They are such a good team, really in sync," says O'Carroll. "I fulfilled their vision by bringing materials and craftspeople to the project." The success of the group effort speaks for itself. This home is a mouth-watering work of art.

The three-bedroom, four-bathroom home confers texture. At 4,300 square feet, it's a harmonious blend of modern luxe and traditional Southwestern aesthetics. "We wanted it to be casually elegant and comfortable," says Wendy. Thoughtful divisions of space balance oversized rooms. "The rooms have a great, livable scale," says O'Carroll. The openness feels inviting, not intimidating.

Three backlit onyx stones just inside the towering pivot-hinge front door greet visitors with an immediate dose of visual freshness. A consistent neutral, gray-to-brown palette exudes warmth, boosted by a plum-colored slate floor throughout. Lacquer-finished kitchen cabinets, reflective and sleek, anchor the neoteric feel, while

A stucco wall surrounding the front yard provides some privacy, while still allowing for stunning views of mesa and sky. The landscape detail and entryway are meant to be inviting to the homeowners every day, not just to the occasional guest.





Above: Bookmatched stone repeats below the island, behind the range and above the cabinetry, creating a deep visual plane. Light-colored surfaces awash with natural light make the whole room glow.



Above: Tall, decorative sconces bracket a painting. The neutral tones of the home allow colorful artwork to stand out.

“When we saw Keith’s design, it was better than anything we could have dreamed of. ... He had me at 25 skylights.”  
—James Hunsaker

bookmatched quartzite stone on the kitchen horizontals imbues an earthy sense.

The master suite, an award winner in the August 2019 Santa Fe Parade of Homes, is at once spacious and cozy, utterly embracing in its neo-New Mexican flavor, with a focus on the long-range desert views. And those superlative skylights? Gorges eschews the traditional middle-of-the-room skylight where a waterfall of light can be more artful. “These are up against the wall. They create shafts of light and shadow against the





The living room offers the best view of the marriage and contrast of the monolithic stone wall, square beams and modern touches. One could easily believe the home was built around an ancient ruin.



The modernity of a tall space is tempered by the coziness of a wood ceiling. The bedroom is visually very clean while maintaining a sense of warmth and comfort.



architecture,” says Gorges. “The light is indirect; it doesn’t shine down in the middle of the room.”

Outside there is much to enjoy, from a rooftop deck to a hot tub to a putting green. The landscape is as artistically executed as the interior, with architectural planters, concrete spheres and a water feature. “They paid a lot of attention to the exterior spaces. They paid as much attention to the outside as to the inside,” says O’Carroll. Radiant heaters on the portal extend the season. With so many floor-to-ceiling windows, whether standing indoors



Above: Perhaps the most luxurious spot in the house is the master bath, decked out in a richly patterned marble and topped with a chandelier that itself resembles water droplets falling.





His and hers vanity sinks are gorgeously finished with dark cabinetry, round-top mirrors and crystal sconces.



looking out, or outdoors looking in, the view is impeccable.

The pièce de résistance, the first thing one notices upon arrival, the undeniable presence throughout the home, is a towering, monolithic stone structure, the backbone of the house. “The stone wall bisects the house. It has overgrouted joints. It just looks old,” says Gorges. “In an abstract sense, you can imagine that the wall existed before the house did. And then apply elements of Santa Fe style to the design. You appreciate both elements more because they are contrasted.” To call it a wall is an understatement. It’s so substantial, it just feels it must have always been there, and the house was built around it. Juxtaposed against the modern envelope of the home, the stone monument is made even more beautiful as a primitive aesthetic.

So, what would one call the style of this mixed-media home? The artists who created it have a lot to say about that. “In this case we have exposed beams, as you would expect on a Pueblo Revival, and plaster interior,” says



A slab of dark marble anchors an otherwise light and bright master shower.



An outsized entry allows visitors to really feel the architectural ambiance of the home before proceeding to more functional spaces.




A covered patio looks out to a putting green and to a gorgeous desert view.



“If I had to sum up the look, I’d call it ‘masculine glam.’ The textures are very masculine, but the finishes have a lot of glamour to them.” —Wendy Hunsaker

Gorges. “But the plaster is very contemporary with square-edge corners.”

“If I had to sum up the look,” says Wendy, “I’d call it ‘masculine glam.’ The textures are very masculine, but the finishes have a lot of glamour to them.” O’Carroll agrees, saying, “It rides that tension between masculine and feminine.” Gorges ties it all together, saying “This home is part of an experiment, one I call ‘contextual modern.’” It’s the embodiment of a cutting-edge, modern New Mexican home casting a respectful eye on the past

Happily ensconced in their new abode, Wendy and James enjoy lots of time with family now. James finally gets to enjoy some golf with his brothers, and then comes home to a house for the ages. 





Concrete spheres lend some art to the landscaped yard, visually pleasing from inside or outside.

A private, walled outdoor space allows for sunbathing or a dip in the hot tub under a starry New Mexico sky.

## resources

### Builder

Tierra Concepts, Inc.

### Interior Design

Annie O'Carroll  
Interior Design

### Appliances

Sierra West Sales

### Art (Onyx)

Sequoia Santa Fe

### Cabinetry

Ernest Thompson

### Countertops (Fabricator)

Counter Intelligence

### Exterior Fountains

Stone Forest

### Fireplaces

Mountain West Sales  
mountainwestsales.net

### Fixtures

Santa Fe By Design

### Flooring & Tile

Milestone Imports  
Allbright & Lockwood

### Garage Doors

Windsor Door Sales

### Kitchen Backsplash

Arizona Tile  
Counter Intelligence

### Landscaping

Tierra Concepts, Inc.

### Lighting

La Luz Lighting

### Natural Stone

Kinney Brick

### Outdoor Furniture

Moss Outdoor

### Skylights

Insulite Skylights, LLC

### Sliding Window Walls, Windows

Pella Window  
and Door  
pellaofalbuquerque.com

### Steel Windows/ Pivot Door & Gates

Ripple Metal  
Fabrication

### Window Coverings

Custom Window  
Coverings, Ltd.