

99-DAY  
REDO — AS SEEN ON  
THE ABC HOME SHOW

# HOME

CREATIVE IDEAS FOR HOME DESIGN

APRIL 1991 \$1.95

## WELCOME TO OUR HOUSE

HOME Remodels  
a Suburban Ranch

### BATHS

Small-Space  
Solutions

### REMODELING

Sun-Drenched  
Kitchen

### BUILDING

Stylish, Solar-  
Wise Design



# Solar-wise in the Southwest

Energy-smart and style-conscious, a contemporary New Mexico house refines solar design with European detailing

ARCHITECTURE

**M**ysteriously shaped items were packed among the clothes in the suitcases of transplanted German physicist Michael Holzscheiter when he traveled from Wiesbaden to Los Alamos, New Mexico, birthplace of the atomic bomb. Though the objects didn't set off any alarms, he chuckles mischievously at the thought of customs agents, under alert, discovering the questionable items to be European plumbing fixtures.

Michael and his wife Karin were actually en route to Tesuque, just outside Santa Fe, where they would build a new home on a rolling, five-acre site. They were intent on taking advantage of the best of both worlds: German-engineered fixtures and lighting technology and American state-of-the-art solar construction.

Santa Fe architect Bruce Davis, who has an established track record for designing solar houses, devised a two-bedroom, 2,000-square-foot adobe, glass and metal structure for the Holzscheiters that expresses their sophisticated European tastes in a contemporary interpretation of New Mexican vernacular. The design hybrid avoids local style clichés while remaining rooted in the unmistakably Santa Fe landscape, its natural, earthy aura and pure, clear light. Observes Davis, "As Europeans, the Holzscheiters were able to see the American Southwest with fresh eyes. They wanted me to take advantage of the land they had bought, and particularly its views."

CHAIR BY CHARLES GRIER FROM SPECI, SANTA FE





Above: In tiny Tesuque, New Mexico, April snow covers the adobe-and-metal structure, which adapts traditional local materials. Left: Inside, the adobe is whitewashed. Opposite: In a nod to Native American healing arts, German-born Karin uses teepee to house her therapeutic massage practice.

This Euro-Southwest design hybrid blends with the unmistakably Santa Fe landscape, its natural, earthy aura and pure, clear light.



Above: For an enhanced sense of spaciousness, the partition wall separating living room from kitchen is not extended all the way to the beamed ceiling. The partition accommodates a stereo closet, photo darkroom and, on the kitchen side, a built-in refrigerator.

**T**he Holzschneiders originally wanted an atrium house that would have required too much square footage for an under-\$200,000 budget. Instead, Davis created a structure in which a greenhouse dining room forms the bridge between two rectangles, one for the public living area and the other housing the two bedrooms and baths. Semicircular patios on either side of the dining room soften the geometry of the floor plan. The otherwise flat roofline is punctuated by clerestory windows in both sections of the house and by a skylight in the dining room.

Tin-roofed adobes dot the hills of New Mexico; Davis adapted these traditional materials, using adobe and brick-red metal roofing. To minimize costs, the 10-inch-thick walls were whitewashed but left unplastered on the interior, and handmade Mexican brick was used instead of costly tile on the dining room floor.

PAINTINGS BY SAMMY PETERS AND SCULPTURE ON COFFEE TABLE BY JOHN GORDON, BOTH FROM SHOOCH CONTEMPORARY GALLERY, TESCUE, OAXACA; RUG FROM THIRDS PRIZE, SANTA FE; LEATHER LOVESEAT FROM SPECS, SANTA FE



Above: Unplastered, whitewashed adobe walls and pine floors and beams in the light-filled living room capture the spirit of Santa Fe and establish an earthy contrast to the sleek, Eurostyle furnishings. Coffee table is the architect's design. Right: Floor plan consists of two rectangular spaces—a living room/kitchen area and bed-and-bath quarters—joined by a greenhouse dining room.







To achieve the rustic look of Mexican tile at one-third the cost, handmade Mexican brick is used to pave the greenhouse dining room.

**S**uch budget-conscious moves allowed the couple to splurge elsewhere. The kitchen is equipped with sleek European fixtures. Suspended low-voltage lighting by Ingo Maurer adds innovative sparkle to the decor. And high-quality yellow pine flooring and ceiling beams create a sense of warmth.

The direct-gain solar design of the house brings in sun through a variety of windows, skylights and clerestories. Automatic louvers on the dining room skylight open for sun and close for insulation. Solar water storage tubes in the guest bedroom capture thermal energy during the day, then slowly release it into the room after sunset. Aside from the two fireplaces, the homeowners' need for backup heat is minimal; their highest electric bill during the last frigid northern New Mexico winter was \$90!

How have these transplanted Europeans adapted? "In Germany, you purchase a home to last a lifetime; in America there is the sense that you purchase a house, then sell it," notes Michael. "But this house has a feeling of permanence. We could eventually build another bedroom and never need to leave."

Editor/writer: Steve Holley; photographer: Dominique Vorrillon; stylist: DeWayne Youts

DINING ROOM: CHAIRS FROM RANDOLPH LAUB FURNITURE, SANTA FE; BRONZE SCULPTURE BY JIM KANAKA FROM SHIDONI CONTEMPORARY GALLERY, TESQUIE; TABLECLOTH AND HANGING POTTERY AND AMBERGLASS PLATES FROM UMBELLO, SANTA FE. BEDROOM: BRONZE BY YOSHITOMO SAITO FROM SHIDONI CONTEMPORARY GALLERY, TESQUIE; CHAIR BY ERIC POWELL FROM SPIRIT, SANTA FE. KITCHEN: CABINAGE, BOWLS AND DISHES FROM UMBELLO, SANTA FE.



Above: Tatami mat and paper lamps create Japanese-Santa Fe alliance in bedroom. Left: Light wood-and-glass cabinetry and tile squares define crisp, Eurostyle kitchen. Far left: Solar water tubes in guest bedroom capture and store thermal energy by day, then gradually release it during the night.



Opposite: In the greenhouse dining room, a louvered skylight pulls in winter sun and provides welcome shade during the desert summers. Low-voltage lighting by German designer Ingo Maurer makes a high-tech contrast to the rustic ambience.

For further information, see *Buying Guide*, page 114