

**North Barelás
Housing For The Elderly
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

Client:
Albuquerque Housing Authority
Architect:
Westwork Architects P.A.
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Principals:
Glade Sperry Jr. A.I.A.
Lawrence Licht A.I.A.
Stanley G. Moore A.I.A.
Structural Engineer:
Chavez-Grievés
Mechanical Engineer:
Four Seasons Engineering
Electrical Engineer:
Art Zerwer
Developer:
Homes by Marilynn
Contractor:
Bradbury & Stamm
Photos:
Westwork Architects P.A.

Located on a four acre site in North Barelás, an old established barrio just south of downtown Albuquerque, this passive solar project provides sixty units of housing for low income elderly residents.

The project site is noteworthy in that it originally contained over two dozen homes that were demolished in the early 1970's as part of the urban renewal program. The housing in the neighborhoods surrounding the site date from Albuquerque's "Railroad Era" of the early 1900's and is distinguished by steeply pitched roofs, varying roof profiles and carpenter gothic ornament.

Constructed through H.U.D. for the Albuquerque Housing Authority, the project design and budget guidelines were extremely detailed and very strict. Working within these guidelines, our design intention was to create a feeling of home and neighborhood for the residents of the project and to blend into the architecture of the surrounding area. We used forms and materials that would be familiar to the residents and created a site plan which respects the existing urban fabric of rectilinear streets with single family houses fronting on them.

All of the housing units within the project are oriented with the entry facing south. Each unit is provided with a sun porch entry with masonry mass walls and floor which store heat and re-radiate it to the main living spaces (refer to the typical cluster plan and also the passive energy diagram). Clustered around the sun porch are the living room, dining room and bedroom. These spaces also have windows oriented to receive direct passive solar gain. In the summer months, the evaporative cooling system is augmented by shading from the roof overhang on the south side, by cross-ventilation through windows on the south and north sides of the units and by exhaust through the roof of the sun porch.

Each unit is also provided with small individual front and rear fenced yard areas for outdoor activities and gardens.

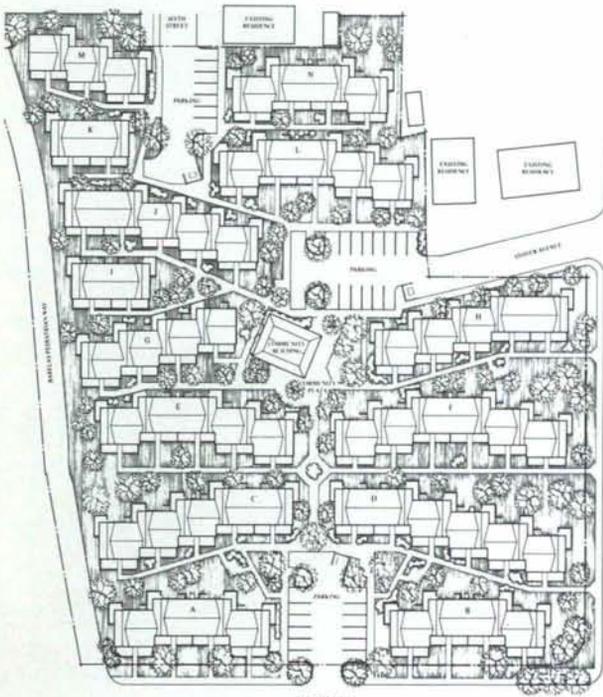
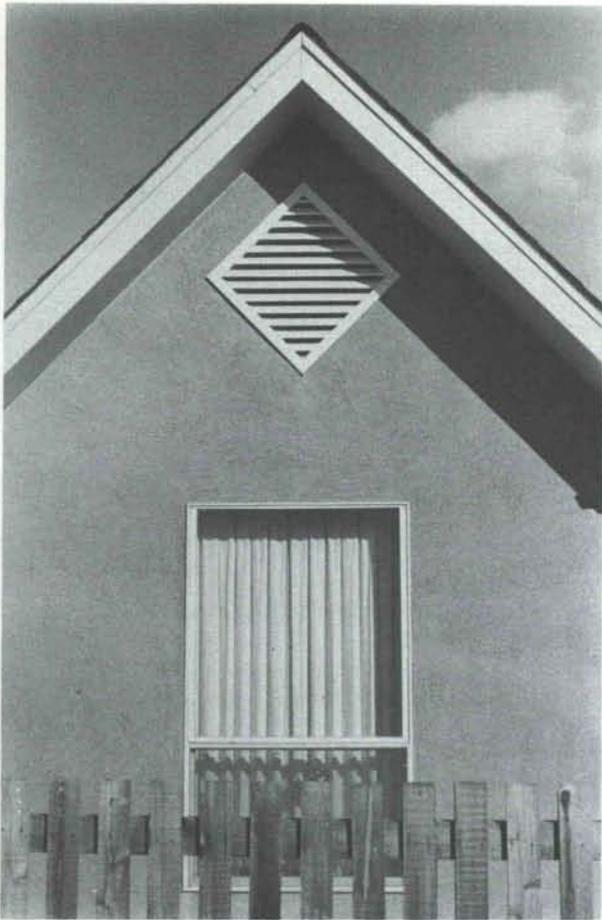
All units are designed with ample clearances for mobility by the elderly residents. Six units are accessible to the totally handicapped and include special storage height provisions, special kitchen casework and bathroom design. An alarm system located in each unit activates an audible and visual signal outside the front door to each unit for use by the occupant in case of emergency.

A centrally located community building and plaza area provides laundry and mail facilities as well as areas for activities and socializing.



Jury Comment:

A project with an appropriate sense of community. It is modest yet sensitive in response to the residential traditions of the neighborhood. Its pedestrian and human scale gives the project and the individual units a sense of turf and place.



BARELAS
HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

SITE PLAN
0 10 20 30 FT.

