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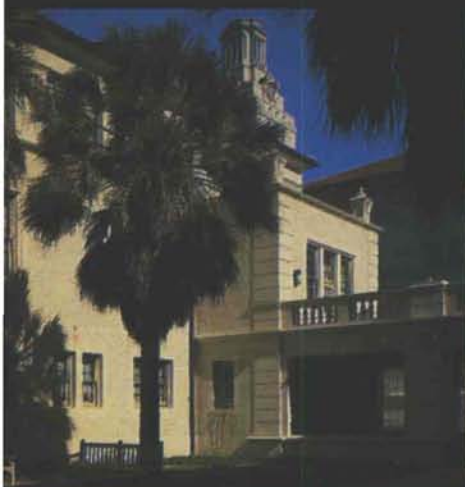
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• vol. 30 no. 1 •

# IN THIS ISSUE:

We begin a new year and a new volume of *New Mexico Architecture* magazine. It is difficult for me to realize that, with this issue, we begin volume 30, the thirtieth year of publishing *NMA*. A special issue in celebration of the turn of the decades is in preparation.

The first issue of *New Mexico Architecture* was distributed in March, 1959 and was planned to be a monthly magazine; it never quite made it. Those first issues flourished or floundered, depending on your (the readers) point of view. In any case, through thick and thin, it persists today.

W. Miles Brittelle, Sr., AIA was the man who, as president of the then New Mexico Chapter, American Institute of Architects, pushed and shoved the magazine into existence. To effect this birth he had the willing help of Editorial Board members, Jason Moore, AIA and Phillippe Register, AIA. (Editors note: I, as a member of the Chapter, voted against the idea at the Chapter meeting where the members were called upon to allow it to be born.) The present magazine staff wonders at times whether to plant American Beauty roses or thorny thistles on friend Miles' grave.

□ □ □ □

The cover of this issue of *NMA* is being sponsored by Dekker & Associates, Architects, CCM Contractors, general contractors, Sto Products and Mudd Brothers. The sponsorship of each cover is a vital need and we sincerely appreciate this generous support.

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# nma

✎ The Editor's Column	3
A Place of Beginnings... New Futures School by Angela Atterbury	8
Books Built to Last: History of Silver City, New Mexico Reviewed by Chris Wilson	13
Pueblo Style and Regional Architecture Edited by Nicholas C. Markovich, Wolfgang F.E. Preiser, and Fred B. Sturm	15
NEWS Historic Preservation Courses to be offered at UNM Architecture School	16
Professional Directory	17
Advertiser's Index	18

(Cover—*New Futures School, Albuquerque Public Schools*  
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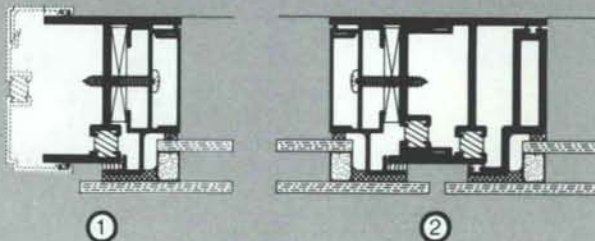


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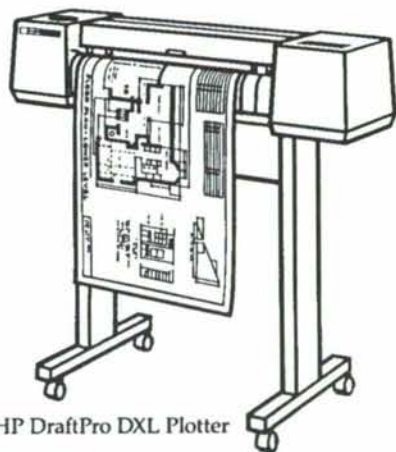
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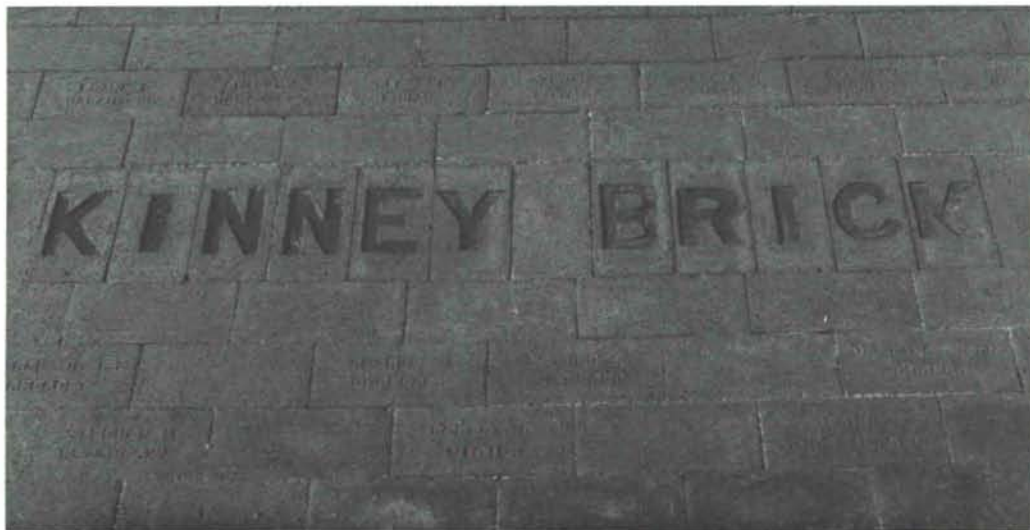
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# A Place of Beginnings--New Futures School

by Angela Atterbury

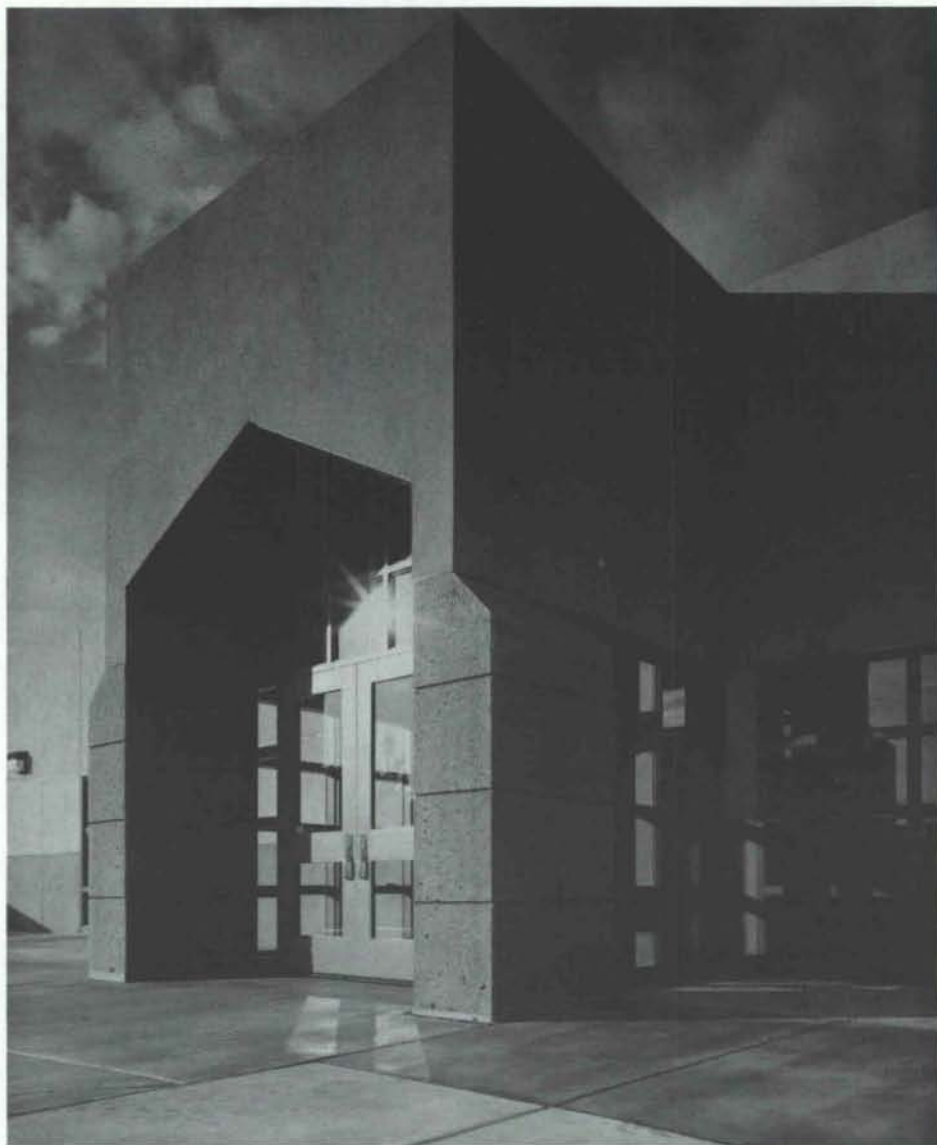
When selected to design an alternative school for the Albuquerque Public School System, the Dekker & Associates project team and Janice Sells of APS Facilities and Planning were faced with the elements basic to most projects--a strict budget to adhere to and a tight schedule. Unlike other projects, however, this one had to be designed with two unique considerations; to provide an adequate learning environment for pregnant teens, young mothers, as well as nurseries for their babies; and to design a space infused with hope for some of Albuquerque's greatest "at risk" teenagers, many already middle or high school dropouts.

"What was exciting about this project was being able to apply a design process whereby we as the architects got to actually invent something with our client because nothing else like this existed before. A lot of times architects don't get to be inventors like we did for this project," said Dale Dekker, Principal-in-Charge.

His clients were the highly dedicated administration and staff of New Futures, a school for pregnant teens and young mothers which had operated for several years at the site of the old Monroe Junior High School at the corner of Louisiana and Indian School Road. When APS selected Dekker for the project in May, 1987, the project team had just four months to work up a design on which construction began in September, 1987. The new building, constructed by Construction Contracting and Management Inc., is located on the northeast corner of the old Cortez Elementary School at 5400 Cutler NE. The school was ready for occupancy this past fall.

In order to meet such a condensed schedule, Dekker, along with APS and New Futures Principal Caroline Gaston, created the "B.P.C.", the Building Planning Committee made up of New Futures staff specially selected by the teachers, counselors and administrators at New Futures. Their purpose was to inform Dekker and his project team about the distinct philosophy of New Futures School, its history and background, and its future in order to facilitate the design process.

The project team then began to interview all school staff, discussing what aspects of the old facility they wished to maintain in the new school, and what innovations they would like to see incorporated. Special attention was paid to the grouping of nurseries convenient to the front of the school with outdoor access to play yards for each one.



*New Futures School, Main entry.*

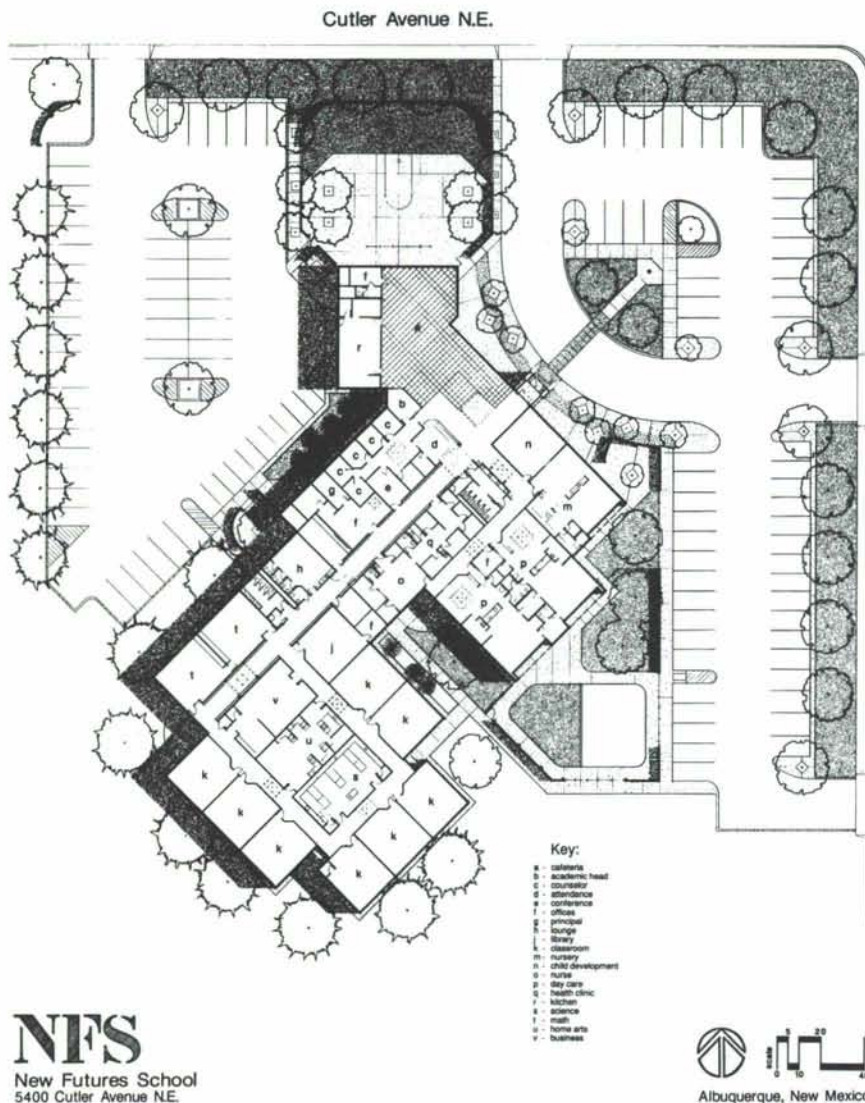
*An energy-saving vestibule, flanked by two precast concrete columns, welcomes students, faculty & guests to NFS. (Precast columns donated by Ferreri Concrete Structures, Albuquerque)*

Next, the Dekker and Associates project team interviewed the students to find out what elements the girls wanted in the new school. "We talked first to the girls that were pregnant, to determine what their needs were, then to the girls with babies, then to the girls with toddlers. Essentially, we were trying to get a feeling for what these girls did during the day, to get a focus on how their day went," Dekker said.

As a result, the floor plan totally reflects a combination of the way the school works with faculty, staff, students, and infants.

The main entrance of the school was designed for pick-up and drop-off of students who were pregnant or who had to negotiate babies and diaper bags in inclement weather. The cafeteria is at the front of the school and is used as a multi-functional space where students and their babies can wait for rides after school. Directly behind the open cafeteria space is the check-in area for all students and visitors. This open area, with windows which give a panoramic view of the Sandia Mountains, provides good security for the





school. The single entrance allows the check-in area to easily monitor everyone who enters and leaves the school.

Since the old school had a central hallway where students and their babies often congregated between classes, a similar hallway "spine" was designed by Dekker and Associates. This spine branches off into the nursery hall where three of the school's four nurseries are located; Tender Loving Care, for the infants from two weeks to four months, Cookie Monster, for "crawlers," babies aged from five through ten months, and Big Bird, for the "cruisers," babies aged from eleven through fifteen months. The other hallway contains students' classrooms, one area grouped for high school age students, and a smaller area for middle school. Both hallways adjoin to provide easy access to students and to the infants.



## Location Map NFS

The layout of the 30,000 square foot school makes the most efficient use of space possible. "The school has mostly useable space; it's not a lot of overhangs, covered courtyards, or that kind of thing," Dekker said. Because of the unique nature of the school and its curriculum, some of the classrooms have windows between them for monitoring by one teacher. One classroom may be engaged in a hands-on computer workshop, while another class is being taught in a traditional method. One teacher can thus cover both classes.

Saving money was also a prime consideration in the design and building of the school. The Dekker and Associates project team conducted an analysis of the equipment at the old school and decided to move the existing kitchen equipment to the new school. The old school's lockers were reconditioned and installed in the new facility.

"My mom is a welfare mother. We've lived on food stamps all of my life. I didn't want that, though, for me. I want my son to pull the world along with him, instead of letting the world drag him along."

Deidra C.  
NFS Student

CBS Evening News, Sept., 1987



Measures such as these resulted in the school being constructed for \$1.37 million or \$45.67 per square foot.

With an approximate student population of 230 students and 90 infants at any given time, the school does not look overcrowded for its space. Its appearance, in fact, hints at a positive, cheerful place. Interior and exterior colors used for the building are shades of rose, pink and turquoise. "The girls wanted pinks and bright colors. They said they wanted it to look like a pleasant place to be, not like an institution," Dekker said. For this particular student population, Mrs. Gaston said color scheme and the overall feel of the school were highly crucial.

"You have to remember that this group of students has already given up and the regular school system has given up on them," she said. Many of the students come from troubled backgrounds; the emphasis of New Futures is to raise their self esteem, teach them how to be good parents while providing traditional secondary education, thus making them productive members of society. Each student is respected as an individual. Gaston said the design of the school had to reflect this, which, she says, "the new school does beautifully."

Gaston says the girls themselves are proud to have been included in the design process and to see some of their suggestions reflected in the new building. As a result, she says, they have a marked pride in the school. She related a story of how, recently, one student accidentally squirted ketchup on the cafeteria wall. The girl immediately went and got a cleaning rag from cafeteria staff and cleaned the wall without any prompting. "You would be hard pressed to see that occur at any school, anywhere," she said, smiling proudly. A.A.



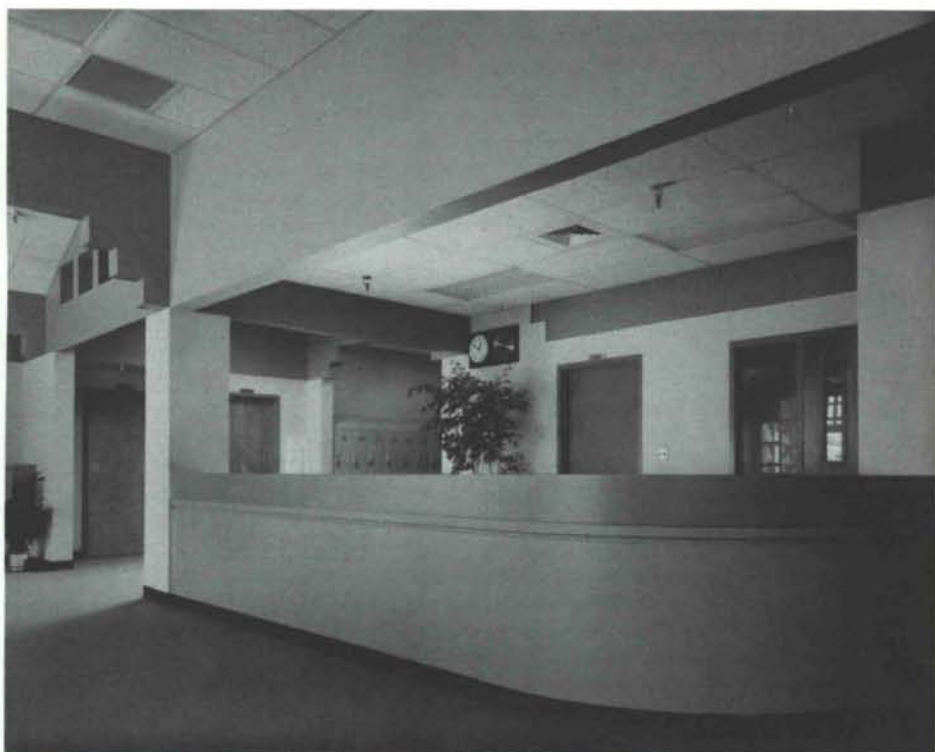
*New Futures School, Northeast Facade.*

*Approach to main entry. Exterior treatment is a tricolored stucco in earth-tone hues with subtle accents at entries. Corners are accentuated by stepping the darker stucco shade up to the parapet.*

*Angela Atterbury, former local TV and print journalist, now owns Atterbury & Associates. Her firm provides marketing consultation to the accounting, architecture, engineering, law, medical, and planning professions. An Albuquerque resident, she also is a freelance writer.*

The mission of New Futures School is to assist and parents to make responsible, informed decisions; to progress of their secondary education; to mature; to have healthy families; to become responsible parents (which for choice to release for adoption); and to become well-adjusted sufficient members of their communities.





**New Futures School Attendance Desk.**

*Innovative use of drywall in a double-layered wall system and in playful corbels and cut-outs throughout the building creates a stimulating, yet sturdy and cost-effective learning environment for the special population of students and children who attend NFS. (Interiors by Black Tie Design, Albuquerque)*

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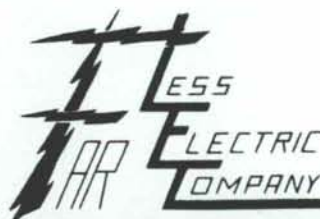
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## Built to Last: An Architectural History of Silver City, New Mexico.

Susan Berry and Sharman Apt Russell. Santa Fe: New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, 1986. Paperback, 120 pages, 79 photographs, 6 maps, index.

Reviewed by Chris Wilson

The wealth flowing through mining boom towns often leaves a residue of architectural riches long after gold and silver have played out. This architecture is often far more lavish and substantial than that

found in non-mining towns of the same region. The Churrigueres Baroque churches of Guanajuato, Mexico and the ornate hotels and houses of Leadville, Durango and a dozen other Colorado mining towns come quickly to mind.

The most architecturally distinguished New Mexican mining town is Silver City in the southwest corner of the state. This recently-published book is the finest monograph on the architecture of a single New Mexican community yet to appear. The authors are Susan Berry, the director of the Silver City Museum, and Sharman Russell, who teaches writing at Western New Mexico University in Silver City.

Silver City boomed from 1870 until the late 1880s, when its population stood at some four thousand, making it the fourth largest community in the New Mexico territory. It boasted an active brick kiln in 1871, ten years before Santa Fe developed a dependable local supply of fired brick. By the 1880s, its Italianate commercial blocks, and Queen Anne and Second Empire houses rivaled those of Santa Fe, Albuquerque and Las Vegas.

*Built to Last* is engagingly written for a general audience. The extensive use of period photographs and quotations from newspapers, diaries and memoirs bring the historic era to life. Indeed, this is as much a social history as an architectural history.

This book does add an important new chapter to the architectural history of the state, which has previously been focused primarily on the north central area. *Built to Last* sketches Mimbres and Spanish activities in the Silver City area, before chronicling the boom era, a second period of prosperity at the turn of the century when the treatment of tuberculosis gave new economic life to the city, and the years since the First World War when Western New Mexico University and the sporadic activity of nearby copper mines have sustained the community. A final chapter recounts the historic preservation efforts of recent years. An appendix with historic district maps describes each of the registered historic buildings. A map of the city locating the districts would have been a useful addition.

The book also touches on the Hispanic dwellings of La Capilla (Chihuahua Hill) neighborhood, where immigrants from Mexico congregated. These passages are brief compared to the discussions of Anglo architecture, due largely to the lack of written period accounts from the Hispanic point of view and the extremely limited scholarship on the Hispanic vernacular building tradition of southern New Mexico, Arizona, Sonora and Chihuahua. A greater use of oral history and a systematic analysis of the plans of Hispanic houses, however, might have given greater depth to this subject.

Such is a small criticism when measured against the very substantial effort of research and documentation that the book represents. The New Mexico Historic Preservation Division deserves credit not only for supporting the historic building survey on which the work is based, but also for using its Publications Revolving Fund to put this book into print. The Silver City Museum, from the evidence of the book's



La Capilla (Chihuahua Hill) neighborhood in south end of Silver City, NM, between 1880-1893. Photo by H. W. Lucas from John Harlen collection, Silver City Museum.

H. B. Ailmen house (L) and H. M. Meredith house on Broadway, Silver City, NM, as they appeared shortly after their construction in 1881. John Harlen collection, Silver City Museum.



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**Built to Last—Continued**

illustrations, has developed an important collection of historic photographs. The Museum, Susan Berry and Sharman Russell have enriched the heritage of their community and our knowledge of New Mexico's architecture with this publication. C.W.

*Built to Last* can be ordered at the price of \$13.95 per copy plus \$2.75 for shipping and handling (add \$1.75 for each additional book for shipping and handling). Make checks payable to Silver City Museum Society and mail to:

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**Pueblo Style and Regional Architecture**

**Edited By Nicholas C. Markovich, Wolfgang F.E. Preisner, and Fred B. Sturm**

This book on "Pueblo Style and Regional Architecture" deals with a very timely and appropriate topic in the search for direction in architecture today, i.e., the important role a regional style can play in providing identity, continuity of experience, and a sense of aesthetic coherence at a time when the architecture of the built environment looks very much alike throughout the world. The book addresses regionalism in general and then focuses on the evolution and diverse interpretations of the unique regional architecture of New Mexico. The roots of this style in the distant past, i.e., Anasazi ruins at Chaco Canyon, the creation of the pueblo revival style in the 20th century, as well as questions about its future appropriateness and development are addressed.

The contributors to this volume include the very finest of scholars and writers in the field of pueblo style and regional architecture including Amos Rapoport (University of Wisconsin), David Gebhard (University of California-Santa Barbara), David Salle (School of Architecture, Arizona State University), Stephen H. Lekson (Arizona Museum, Tucson), Rina Swentzell (Santa Fe and Santa Clara Pueblo, NM), Fred G. Sturm (University of New Mexico), George Kubler (Yale University), Nicholas Markovich (University of New Mexico), T.J. Ferguson and Barbara Mills (Department of Anthropology, University of New Mexico), Theodore S. Jojola, Director (Native American Studies, University of New Mexico), Buford Pickens (Washington University, St. Louis), Wolfgang F.E. Preisner and Christopher M. Wilson (University of New Mexico), Ruth E. Lambert (Los Angeles), Glade Sperry (Westwork Architects, Albuquerque), and V.B. Price (Poet and Architectural Critic, Albuquerque, NM).

The audiences for this book are primarily two: professionals, scholars, and educators interested in issues pertaining to regional architecture, as well as the general public and persons interested in the unique imagery in the U.S. Southwest architecture.

The book is richly illustrated by color and black-and-white photographs from a traveling photographic exhibit which was prepared in connection with a national symposium on this topic. The book has as its mission the revival of the debate about the benefits and pitfalls of regionalism in today's world.

*(The above is a press release from the publisher Van Nostrand Reinhold. I look forward to seeing, reading and reviewing this book for a future issue of NMA, John P. Conron Editor.)*



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## Historic Preservation Courses to be offered at UNM Architecture School

The School of Architecture and Planning at the University of New Mexico has initiated a series of five courses on regional architecture and historic preservation to be offered in a two year rotation. Two of these courses will be partially funded by the Historic Preservation Division of the New Mexico Office of Cultural Affairs.

This spring, the "History of New Mexican Architecture" will be taught by architectural historian Chris Wilson, an Adjunct Assistant Professor of the School. The course will provide an introduction to the styles, materials, construction techniques and building types which have characterized architecture in the state. Special attention will be given to how buildings reflect the values of various cultures and historical periods and, to the approaches to regionalism which local architects have developed.

The course will meet Wednesday evenings, 5:30 to 8:00 in Room 118 of the Architecture School beginning January 25th. It is available for undergraduate or graduate credit (Architecture 462 005 or 562 005 respectively). Course registration is at the Student Services Building, northwest of the Student Union Building.

The full series of Architecture School courses will include:

**Introduction to Historic Preservation**, fall first year of the rotation (next offered Fall 1990), instructor Edith Cherry. A general introduction to historic preservation techniques and philosophies with an emphasis on specific approaches for the restoration and rehabilitation of historic buildings.

**History of Southwestern Architecture**, fall first year (next offered Fall 1990), Michel Pillet. An introduction to the architecture of the Southwest up to 1821 with particular emphasis on the pre-Columbian, Islamic and Spanish roots of the regional tradition.

**History of New Mexican Architecture**, spring first year (Spring 1989), Chris Wilson.

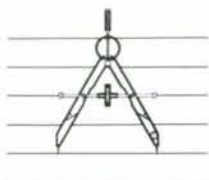
**Historic Building Field Survey and Research Methods**, fall second year (Fall 1989), Chris Wilson. An introduction to various approaches for documenting and analyzing historic cultural resources through a variety of guest lectures and the completion of a field survey using the New Mexico Historic Building Inventory Process.

**Historic Preservation Internship**, spring second year (Spring 1990), Edith Cherry. This course of independent study by individual students would allow a variety of hands-on preservation projects from design work on a building renovation to the writing of a set of design guidelines to the preparation of a National Register of Historic Places nomination on the area surveyed the previous semester. (Dr. Mary Ann Anders, architectural historian with the Historic Preservation Division, will be available to work with those students who chose to prepare nominations.)



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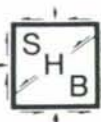
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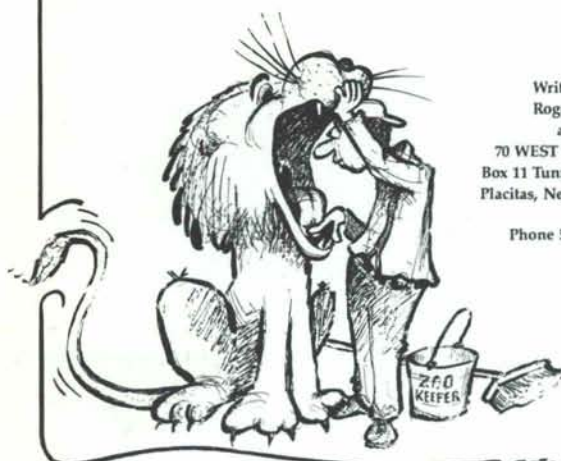
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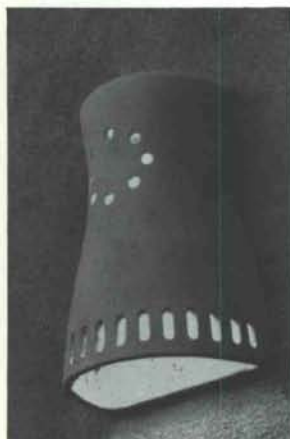


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**INDEX OF FIRMS** who make possible the publication of  
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American Ready Mix, Inc. ....	14
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Bob Brazell Photography .....	6
Builders Block/Featherlite Corp. ....	2
Commercial Kitchen Equipment .....	6
Construction Contracting & Management, Inc. ....	15
Construction Cost Management .....	16
Cook's Building Specialties .....	16
Crego Block Co. ....	19
Crego Block Co. ....	20
Curtainwall Window Limited .....	6
Farless Electric Co. ....	12
Ferreri Concrete Structures, Inc. ....	6
HC Glass Co., Inc. ....	16
Holman's, Inc. ....	7
Kinney Brick .....	7
Kitts Enterprises, Inc. ....	14
Kohler .....	4
Kohler/Active Supply Co. & PHC Supply Co. ....	5
Pella Rio Grande, Inc. ....	12
Plant Designs .....	18
Santa Fe Lights .....	18
School Equipment, Inc. ....	12
Seventy (70) West Workshop .....	18
Superior Mechanical Contractors, Inc. ....	12

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