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A courtyard-centered gem in the Galisteo Basin

Paul Weideman Jan 1, 2017



The great room of the residence in New Moon Overlook

Most of two walls of this house's great room appear like a glass box, jewel-like, from the South Portal. Those glassy walls are pocketing doors and when opened fully, the "glass box" disappears. "We also have pocketing doors on the north wall of the dining room so when they're all open it really

is like an outdoor pavilion,” said architect Craig Hoopes. “This blurring of the line between interior and exterior is something that we like to do in a lot of our houses. That’s why our ceilings and portals are at the same height so it flows seamlessly out.”

This house designed by Hoopes & Associates , which recently won a 2016 AIA-Santa Fe “Citation Award,” is located in New Moon Overlook, a Commonweal Conservancy subdivision in the Galisteo Basin Preserve.

Completed in January 2015, it has 4,332 heated square feet. There are several sizeable *portales*, including on the central courtyard (which offers a respite from the ever-present winds in the basin), so the roofed square footage actually totals 7,875. The house is based on two grids rotated against each other. “They’re off only about 15 degrees from each other, but that rotation gave us the opportunity to highlight certain things and really allowed the interior to flow out to the landscape.” The bedrooms are in three wings that spin off the Great Room. The windows and doors are by Reynaers Aluminum. The European company subsequently opened plants in Arizona and North Carolina, but these were imported from Ireland. “We wanted a lift-and-glide door, as opposed to a sliding door, so when you turn a crank it goes up on wheels and glides easily,” Hoopes said.

“Especially with such big doors, we were afraid they would be so heavy it would be difficult for the owners to move them. Plus these give a tighter seal because the door drops down into a seal. You can have it open three inches for ventilation and have it drop down and lock for additional security. They also liked the concept that they would be maintenance-free for a long time because there is metal inside and out.”

Hoopes wanted the courtyard to offer a buffering outdoor environment that would allow the owners “to use the house more in a year-round way,” he said. “They tell me that the courtyard stays warm most of the year with the sun coming in. And despite all the glass, their utility bills have not exceeded \$250 a month for gas and electric combined. That’s astonishing for a 4,300-square-foot house.” — Paul Weideman

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