

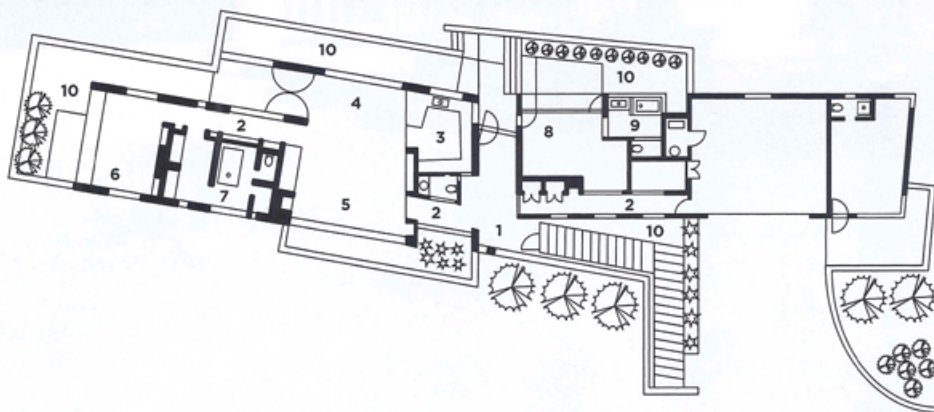
Santa Fe Twist

Designer Heather Van Luchene and architect James Horn create a small house that blends traditional style with contemporary ideas

photography by Matthew Millman text by Laura Mauk



Designer Heather Van Luchene commissioned James Horn, of Spears Architects, to design a modern house with traditional elements for her and her husband, Andrew Van Luchene, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The dining area, which is anchored by a vintage Danish Modern table and chairs and a Stonegate custom pendant, is open to the living room, where Van Luchene placed a sofa upholstered with Kravet woven cotton, a Chad Manley-designed low table, an armchair from Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams and an Odegard rug.



FLOOR PLAN Ridge-top House in Santa Fe

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1 Entry | 6 Master bedroom |
| 2 Hallways | 7 Master bath |
| 3 Kitchen | 8 Bedroom |
| 4 Dining area | 9 Bath |
| 5 Living area | 10 Terraces |



A cantilevered walnut vanity, a concrete counter and limestone flooring are in the master bath. The faucets are by Elkay; the trough sink is from Kohler. **right** "There's a glass wall in the master bedroom so you can view the garden and the landscape beyond," says Horn.



Santa Fe
style update

DESIGN DETAILS



THE DESIGNER AND THE ARCHITECT
Santa Fe-based interior designer Heather Van Luchene and James Horn, of Spears Architects, also located in Santa Fe. "We took it upon ourselves to reinterpret Santa Fe style in a contemporary way," says Van Luchene.



SOUTHWEST MODERN
"It's important to listen to regional demands and the environment even when you're doing cutting-edge things," says Horn, who selected custom-colored stucco that echoes the tones of the

landscape for the exterior. The architect contrasted the stucco—which references traditional adobe—with large expanses of glass, aluminum and steel, including a stainless-steel canopy that cantilevers above the front door (left).



“It’s a very neutral palette,” Van Luchene explains. “The interior wall colors are a warm white that’s like a canvas for the landscape.”

“The whole building is wrapped with terraces that expand the space,” says Horn. “It’s a way of making the rooms seem larger,” adds Van Luchene. “This house was definitely about editing—it was about how little I could get away with while still making it all work.”







SMALL HOUSE

is like a puzzle you piece together and every part has to fit tightly and neatly," says Heather Van Luchene, who created the interiors for her 2,650-square-foot residence in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The designer relocated to the Southwest with her husband, Andrew, almost five years ago. "We came from New York," she says, "so we're used to small spaces."

Inspired in part by the traditional-meets-contemporary architecture style that James Horn, of Spears Architects, created for the Lannan Foundation (*Western Interiors & Design*, September/October 2005), Van Luchene commissioned Horn to imagine a similar aesthetic for her house. "I feel strongly that you have to move forward," says Horn, "but you should respect and support the past." For both the architect and the designer, that meant grounding the house in the New Mexican landscape. The topography of the site informed the footprint of the house, which is situated on a slender ridge. "The house became a long, linear structure that sort of bends in the middle," says Horn. To customize the color of the cementitious stucco, he collected soil and plant life from the site and studied the pigments so that the exterior of the residence would augment the tones of its surround. "That's how the pueblo-style tradition originated," says Van Luchene. "It's respectful of the landscape."

"I used large expanses of glass and chose aluminum storefront frames for windows and exterior doors," says Horn. There are T-shaped windows and windows that are unexpectedly near the floor. "I like unorthodox openings," he explains. "When they're close to the ground, you can see the grasses, the rain come down or a different play of light." Cantilevers are another example of Horn's contemporary hand at play. "The entrance canopy is a cantilever and has stainless-steel panels," he says.

Horn and Van Luchene worked together to make the small rooms feel larger. "James visually

extended all of the spaces by adding outdoor garden areas to each room," says the designer. Van Luchene placed minimal furnishings to promote spaciousness. "I wanted the landscape to read as the focus," she says. She selected classic, clean-lined furniture designs rather than more ornate pieces. "The dining table and chairs have been in my family," she notes. "They're vintage Danish Modern. I love the curves of the chairs."

The dining area blends into the living space, where a sculptural chair designed by Charles and Ray Eames and a Chad Manley flower-shaped low table with a round cherrywood top and a curved steel base are offset by a boxy teak sofa upholstered with Kravet woven cotton. The plaster fire surround has a cantilevered colored-concrete shelf and a niche for stacked wood. "The niche is tied to pueblo style and the vernacular of the region," Horn explains.

The kitchen is small, but it's not tight. "It has everything we need," Van Luchene says. The fiberboard cabinetry is varnished and painted an off-white color. "It's a very neutral palette," she explains. "The interior wall colors are a warm white that's like a canvas for the landscape. There are some warm greys in the floor tile and in the concrete counters. The off-white just kind of fades away, and you see the outdoors through the windows."

Van Luchene believes you have to consider that each space in a small house can be multi-purpose. Her residence has two long hallways, one of which serves both as circulation and as part of the master suite, her office, the library and storage. The designer also believes that you usually need less space than you think you do. "The bedrooms in our house are pretty tiny," she says. "But when you lie in bed and look out the window, you can see all the way to Colorado. You don't feel like you're in a small space." +

clockwise from right In the living room, a chair designed by Charles and Ray Eames is near a large window with aluminum storefront framing and a fire surround that features a niche stacked with wood. A model of the house hangs in the entry above a cantilevered walnut shelf designed by Horn. "The house is a long, skinny structure that sits on a very slender ridge," says Heather Van Luchene. "We wanted it to meld into the ridge." A collage by Andrew Van Luchene hangs above a low-lying rectangular window in the hallway.

