

SuCasa

Northern New Mexico

living
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in ABQ

inspiration ideas resources

mad for
midcentury modern

rediscovering
Historic Route 66

love built in
masterful Westside
remodel

midcentury marvels

Timeless, innovative chairs from history's most gifted designers

Renowned Danish furniture designer Hans Wegner famously said, "If only you could design just one good chair in your life . . . But you simply cannot." The irony, of course, is that Wegner designed more than 500 good chairs, many of which are still in use today. The trend-resistant chairs reproduced here, many commissioned for specific projects in the 1930s to the 1960s by leading architects and furniture designers, are snappy, sexy additions to many of today's home styles.

Barcelona Chair

Conceived for the king and queen of Spain at the 1929 International Exposition in Barcelona, the Barcelona Chair represents the epitome of modern furniture. Designer Ludwig Mies van der Rohe aimed to "harmonize the old and new in our civilization," allegedly basing the seamless, crisscrossing steel frame on the folding chairs used by Roman aristocracy.

\$5,429, Knoll, knoll.com



Oyster Lounge Chair

Although this foam upholstered shell chair by designer Pierre Paulin screams "the '60s," its design remains timeless. The seat appears to float above the minimalist frame, which is available in chrome or powder coat.

\$2,998, Hive Modern
hivemodern.com

Le Corbusier LC4 Chaise Longue

This adjustable "long chair" is constructed of triple chrome-plated steel with a lacquered steel base and an authentic cowhide fur-covered foam cushion and headrest. Designed by the influential Swiss architect Le Corbusier in 1928 with Pierre Jeanneret and Charlotte Perriand, the chair was meant for ultimate relaxation, offering a variety of reclining angles.

\$4,335, Design Within Reach, dwr.com





**Herman Miller Eames
Lounge Chair and Ottoman**

With a more relaxed look than many of the contemporary designs of its time, his now-iconic lounge chair was Charles Eames's embodiment of "a well-used first baseman's mitt." He and his wife Ray created this chair for Academy Award-winning director Billy Wilder in 1956 to provide him with a relaxing place to take catnaps on film sets.

*\$4,579, Design Warehouse
designwarehousestantafe.com*



Bertoia Side Chair

Italian-born American designer Henry Bertoia described the collection of formed wire frame chairs he made for Knoll as "mainly made of air . . . space passes right through them." The sturdy, industrial chair, created in 1952 with a minimalist vinyl seat cushion, works indoors and out.

\$748, Knoll, knoll.com

Knoll Saarinen Womb Chair and Ottoman

Inspired by Florence Knoll's suggestion of a "chair that is like a basket full of pillows," Eero Saarinen designed the Womb chair for comfort and security more from the shell shape than the cushioning. Saarinen convinced a boat builder to experiment with fiberglass for the streamlined look.

\$4,999, Design Warehouse, designwarehousestantafe.com



Risom 654 Lounge Chair by Knoll

Danish-born Jens Risom's original lounge chair was made for Knoll in the early 1940s of wood and woven cotton webbing—materials not subject to wartime restrictions. Today's chair (shown here in clear maple frame and nylon webbing in licorice) is as sturdy as it is timeless. Frame also available in walnut and ebonized maple.

Starting at \$1,270, Copenhagen, copenhagenliving.com



mountain magic

Hot fun and cool deals at Northern
New Mexico's favorite ski areas



Jim Merritt/Angel Fire Resort

The snow is piling up in the high, dry New Mexico mountains as skiers and snowboarders head to the state's resorts. Here's a brief update on what's hot this year at a few Northern New Mexico ski areas, along with a few discount deals. For statewide skiing, *Su Casa* recommends the **Ski New Mexico True Passport** (skinewmexico.com)—\$169 buys one ticket at all eight New Mexico ski areas—or the **New Mexico Xtreme Ski Card** (nmxsports.org)—just \$159, it provides free tickets or discounts at 13 different mountains, including nearby Colorado resorts, and also benefits youth sports and creative arts.

Taos Ski Valley

What's hot: Taos Ski Valley was purchased in 2013 by billionaire Louis Moore Bacon who is bringing big changes to the state's most popular ski and ride destination. New this season, Kachina Peak boasts one of North America's highest chairlifts, which accesses bountiful advanced terrain. Renovations to the restaurants and facilities at the base are ongoing. skitoas.org

What's cool: Purchase a Taos Card for \$70 to receive \$17 off single-day tickets, with the seventh day free, plus discounts on lessons, equipment, and retail shops at the resort.

Ski Santa Fe

What's hot: The 77 trails at Ski Santa Fe cater to skiers of all levels. Half the mountain is groomed daily, and a freestyle terrain park presents fun challenges on 15 different features. In 2012, La Casa Lodge expanded by 12,000 square feet for a more streamlined customer experience. skisantafe.com

What's cool: Purchase a Peak Plus Card for \$69 to receive \$25 off single-day tickets at Ski Santa Fe or Sandia Peak with no restricted dates, or share the Six Pack of Fun with friends or family for six transferrable tickets at either Ski Santa Fe or Sandia Peak.

Angel Fire Resort

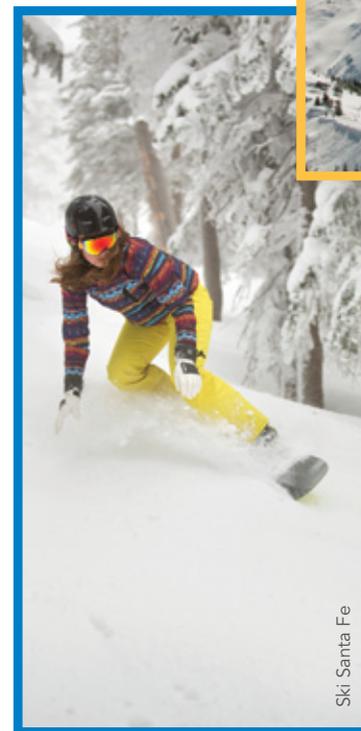
What's hot: A favorite mountain for beginner and intermediate skiers and boarders, Angel Fire Resort is the only New Mexico resort offering night skiing (on weekends and holidays until 8 PM). Debuting this season, the Railyard Terrain Park features boxes, rails, and jumps specifically designed for new skiers and boarders. angelfire.com

What's cool: Seniors over 70 ski free, as do fifth graders (with a paying adult) and kids under 6. Several discount programs for those new to the sport are available. 

Above: Angel Fire Resort has 79 runs, three terrain parks, a tubing hill, and 15 kilometers of cross-country and snowshoe trails. Right: Fifty percent more terrain is now accessible via the new Kachina Peak lift at Taos Ski Valley.



Taos Ski Valley



Ski Santa Fe

Left: Just 16 miles north of Santa Fe, Ski Santa Fe is a playground for skiers and snowboarders of all abilities. Average snowfall tops out at 225 inches across the 660 acres of terrain, with more than 1,725 vertical feet of skiing.



by Cristina Olds

from the ground up

Albuquerque architects open their workspaces to the public as part of a citywide arts exhibition

Five Albuquerque design and architecture studios will open their doors in February for an intimate tour of their creative spaces as part of a citywide collaboration called *On the Map: Unfolding Albuquerque Art + Design*. Celebrating contemporary art, design, and architecture, *On the Map* includes exhibitions, lectures, performances, and educational programming through June. On February 14 from 2–5 PM, 516 ARTS presents the Architecture & Design Studio Tour, part of *From the Ground Up: Design Here + Now*, which will be led by architect Cory Greenfield of Entropic Industries. All participating studios will show their work in the 516 ARTS exhibition.

The tour starts and finishes at Westbund West, a design and fabrications studio where architect Kenneth Myers's steel and wood 2-D and 3-D work will be on display. Along the way, tourgoers will also visit award-winning Sam Sterling Architecture; Spade Design Build, the landscape architecture home studio of Katya Crawford, one of the curators of *From the Ground Up*; Greenfield's recently redesigned Old Town home, where the owner/architect will describe the challenges he faced while fusing historic regional style with contemporary design during his remodel; and the newly constructed home of Lee Gamelsky and Susan Frye of Lee Gamelsky Architects, who worked on projects including Zinc Wine Bar & Bistro and the Rio Grande Zoo, among others.

"All stops fall within a 2.5-mile line," Crawford says. "In that short distance, participants will experience a warehouse, an office, a 1920s bungalow, a historic adobe, and an architect's brand new home on the river. This tour shows the spaces where designers build, and shows *how* they build—a process that is typically hidden from public view."

Space is limited for tour participants, and pre-registration is required. 516arts.org 

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an eye for design

Sometimes inspiration comes
from the most unexpected places



Salvage Secrets Design & Decor: Transform Your Home With Reclaimed Materials, by Joanne Palmisano, W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., paperback, \$35

Repurposing and recycling is more than just a fad. Joanne Palmisano, award-winning interior designer and author of *Salvage Secrets Design & Decor: Transform Your Home With Reclaimed Materials*, says salvaging is a way of life. The building industry generates nearly one third of today's waste, Palmisano explains, but designing with salvaged materials is the ultimate green practice. It also inspires amazing creativity.

And salvage design can look truly fabulous. Palmisano's new book demonstrates how the repurposed hull of a sailboat revamps an ordinary kitchen bar and how a used shipping container perfectly serves an urban home as a cozy guest cottage. Besides professional projects like these, the author offers inspiration to DIYers and outlines several small projects for novices.

Palmisano explains that "salvage" can be anything that is given a second chance, be it reclaimed, vintage, or someone else's cast-off. Before an old surveyor's tripod and scuba air tank part became an amazing floor lamp, someone had the vision to put those materials to that use. Palmisano takes us on a "guided shopping trip" suggesting how to approach the hidden gems in the secondhand store or antiques fair. Practice looking at materials with an eye

to repurpose, the author advises: A blanket makes great upholstery for a chair, and curtains are an instant headboard covering.

Focusing on different parts of the home, Palmisano asks readers to consider how their space is used and how its functionality can be improved with salvage. Flooring, cabinetry, furnishings, and fixture ideas are detailed, with



One homeowner found the driftwood for this headboard on the beach near her San Rafael, California, home.

Susan Teare

“Salvage” can be anything that is given a second chance, be it reclaimed, vintage, or someone else’s cast-off.

suggestions as to where interesting salvage can be found for these items. For those with a passion for salvage design, knowing their reclaimed material’s history, acquisition, and construction details is half the fun. The discovery of metal countertops from a restaurant-supply shop or driftwood washed up on the beach adds to the emotion behind the project.

A chapter called “Retail Inspiration” showcases several hip businesses that are brand-building and promoting sales with clever salvage designs in their stores that homeowners can sample from, and includes a resource list of individuals and companies who helped design the examples featured in the book.

As well as producing a blog (salvagesecretsblog.com), Palmisano films DIY Network videos showing specific refurbishing projects, such as building a dining table from salvaged wood. “Taking a few small steps toward thinking about what goes into our homes will make a huge difference in the entire design and build industry,” Palmisano concludes. With her help, salvage can be beautiful.—*Cristina Olds*



Candice Olson Favorite Design Challenges, by Candice Olson, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, paperback, \$20

Long rooms with no character, tiny spaces with too much going on, awkward corners and angles . . . these architectural groaners are like blank canvases to a creative interior designer. With her battle cry, “No problem, I love a good challenge!” interior designer and HGTV fan favorite Candice Olson unleashes her singular energy on two dozen unhappy spaces crying out for help in *Candice Olson Favorite Design Challenges*.

You’ve seen those HGTV shows where the guy goes out for dinner and comes back three hours later to a spankin’ new rec room. Well, this book ain’t that. For one

There are no vague concepts or suggestions about what you *might* try; these are examples of actual fixes.

thing, Olson actually listens to what *both* parties who will be living in the room are looking for. Often that entails opposing styles and tastes that somehow need to be melded: contemporary with antiques, neutrals with vibrant color. Acknowledging that she’s sometimes more of a marriage counselor than a designer, Olson greets each new challenge with aplomb and a healthy dose of her famous good humor.

The concept being “before and after,” *Candice Olson Favorite Design Challenges* is a how-to book that’s an actual pleasure to read. There are no vague concepts or suggestions about what you *might* try; these are examples of actual fixes. In each challenge, Olson presents a before photo (usually pretty eyebrow-raising) and an explanation of what the homeowners were looking for when they called her in. Immediately following is her process for creating the gorgeous “after.” Breaking it down: a sketch of the space, swatches of the materials to be used, and of course, beautiful color photos of every angle of the new room.

Even the text is easy to read. No long passages here or esoteric concepts that

 The logo for Rattan City features a stylized palm tree with a bird in flight. Below the logo, the text reads "RATTANCITY" in a large, bold, serif font, followed by "CUSTOM OUTDOOR FURNITURE" in a smaller, sans-serif font. The website address "www.rattancity.com" is listed below that. At the bottom, the words "END OF SEASON CLEARANCE" are written in large, bold, red, sans-serif capital letters.

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sweet dreams?

The “cowboy chic” Blame Her Ranch, a fractional ownership property located in Ribera, New Mexico, is decorated top to bottom with authentic Native American artifacts like tomahawks, buffalo skins, and the 45 hand-painted arrows embedded in the wall of the master suite. “My wife Linda and I purchased these 33-inch arrows with real stone arrowheads and turkey feathers from a Navajo man in Arizona,” says owner Steve Blamer, who was inspired by the giant arrow roadside attraction along old Route 66 in Twin Arrows, Arizona. Although he considered shooting them into the wall, Blamer says these arrows are firmly attached with glue: “We didn’t want anyone waking up in the middle of the night with an arrow in the butt.” The hand-carved bed features a flat-screen TV that retracts into the footboard, and a Navajo rug from the Tesuque Flea Market covers the floor. “At night with all the shadows on the arrows, you get a whole different sense than in daytime,” Blamer says. “It’s not eerie; it’s cool.”

Blame Her Ranch, blameherranch.com

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