

# SuCasa

Northern New Mexico

inspiration ideas resources

Tour **30**  
New Mexico  
homes in the  
2015 **spring**  
parade

**off the grid**  
stunning solar  
in north ABQ

beautiful **baths**

**cactus**  
gardening

**come to life**  
Rio Rancho  
Parade winner

## treasure trove

When you build your home with your own hands, as Heather and Matt French of French & French Interiors did, every detail becomes important. The husband-and-wife interior design duo skillfully blended vintage and modern aesthetics in their Madrid home, where they chose a neutral palette for the master bathroom. The rough-sawn New Mexico fir ceiling, mercury glass pendant lights, textured natural fiber jute rug, and clear-stained concrete floors allow lovely details to stand out. Estate sale and antique shop finds—vintage camellia prints, a Bentwood chair, a milking stool—are treasured belongings the owners say connect them to the memories and stories behind the objects. The open, double-console sink with its Carrara marble countertop was chosen for its versatility. “It works well with modern or rustic pieces,” says Heather. “[There are] endless ways you can decorate around this sink.”

**French & French Interiors,**  
[frenchandfrenchinteriors.com](http://frenchandfrenchinteriors.com)



# go green at home

If you're concerned about living eco-consciously, products that make the home environment more efficient and less toxic are plentiful. In honor of Earth Day (April 22), consider some of these environmentally friendly choices for decorating or cleaning your home—or even packing your daily lunch.

## Zabada Dust Glove and Dust Marvel

An eco-conscious alternative to cleaning with chemicals, Zabada cloths' microfibers remove bacteria, dust, and dirt with a simple "wet, wipe, and dry" process. Ditch costly, harmful, and wasteful cleaning products and disposable wipes for this efficient, long-lasting, chemical-free cleaning solution.

\$70, Zabada, [zabadaclean.com](http://zabadaclean.com)



## Coyuchi Chenille Chunky Weave Throw

This soft, cozy blanket is handwoven on a traditional wooden loom in India, with 100 percent organic cotton that's certified to the global organic textile standards and blended with plush chenille. Finished with a stitched edge.

\$98, Coyuchi, [coyuchi.com](http://coyuchi.com)



## PlanetBox Shuttle, Rover, and Launch Lunch Boxes

Packing a lunch instead of eating out is in itself an eco-friendly activity that minimizes consumer waste. Taking it a step further, PlanetBox has developed a stainless steel, reusable lunch box in three convenient sizes with compartments to assist with meal planning. The sharp-looking containers are dishwasher safe and come with a five-year warranty.

\$35-\$70, PlanetBox, [planetbox.com](http://planetbox.com)



## Vi-Spring Natural Fiber Mattress

We spend a third of our lives sleeping, but while snug in our beds, we may be inhaling some nasty chemicals from the filling in and the sealants on our mattresses. For a cleaner, safer alternative, try a luxuriously comfortable Vi-Spring mattress, handmade with natural fibers such as silk, cashmere, and Shetland Isle wool.

Starting at \$3,500, Urban Mattress, [urbanmattress.com](http://urbanmattress.com)

## Solatube Smart LED System

With this revolutionary system—it automatically switches from natural sunlight to energy-efficient LED lights as darkness falls—you'll never have to flip a switch to stay in an illuminated room. An optional sensor activates the light only when an area is occupied, and the glass fixtures can be customized to match any interior décor.

\$700, The Natural Lighting Company, [thenaturallightingco.com](http://thenaturallightingco.com)



## Marmoleum Natural Linoleum Flooring

This ecologically produced, natural linoleum is made from renewable materials including cork, wood flour, linseed oil, rosin, limestone, and organic pigments, with a nontoxic jute backing. The durable panels are inherently antibacterial, contribute to good indoor air quality, and are third-party certified for sustainability. Marmoleum tiles and sheets are available in various sizes and colors.

\$6.59-\$8 per square foot, Southwest Green Building Center, [swgreenbuildingstore.com](http://swgreenbuildingstore.com)





**Watermark Designs**

**Chelsea Collection Bathroom Fixtures**

The average American home uses 400 gallons of water every day. Installing high-efficiency, low-flow aerator faucets can save up to 30 percent of this water. Watermark Designs' brass-cast, 7-inch-tall, curvaceous spout with newly designed cross handles touts a flow rate of just 1.5 gallons per minute without compromising on style in the least.

*\$728-\$1,115, Watermark Designs, watermark-designs.com*



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**AFM Safecoat Zero VOC Paint**

Going beyond the industry standard for VOC content, Safecoat's paints and seals have no acid or ammonia, ingredients that aren't regulated under federal and state indoor air quality laws. Designed specifically for those with chemical sensitivity, Safecoat products remain competitively priced and are available in a rainbow of colors and finishes.

*\$19 per gallon, Southwest Green Building Center, swgreenbuildingstore.com*





# garden in a box

**V**eggiegrower Gardens owner Chuck O'Herron-Alex designed these raised bed garden boxes as part of a hunger relief project in Juarez, Mexico, in 2003. The food-grade, BPA-free resin boxes come in 32 colors and three sizes with interchangeable covers for winter and summer that reduce evaporation, block the wind, and protect produce from bugs and birds. These compact gardens use 80 percent less water than in-ground gardens and can be moved to suit the season or raised off the ground for convenient access. Making your gardening experience even easier, O'Herron-Alex offers a "get you started" package that includes organic soil, starter seeds, fertilizer, pest spray, and delivery and setup of the box and cover. — *Cristina Olds*

**\$375–\$850, Veggiegrower Gardens, [veggiegrower.net](http://veggiegrower.net)**

Chuck O'Herron-Alex



Veggiegrower Gardens' raised beds with built-in irrigation and drainage make gardening easy and fruitful.



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in a whole new

*light*



### It's your home.

When you re-Imagine your space, it's your life that gets a redesign. Transform yours with all the details that make home a happy place.

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## made for the shade

Homeowners of a recently renovated Albuquerque midcentury modern residence wanted their surrounding yards to look equally mod. Amy J. Steidlmayer, owner/landscaper of Red Twig Studio, was called in to transform the space. To give the illusion of depth in the narrow backyard, Steidlmayer rested a large mirror against the far wall and stuccoed the banco and the partial screen, obscuring the air conditioner unit with a receding dark gray. Draping a retractable, fabric shade sail attached with steel cables between the house and a double-T support added flowing movement to the space, which is now more terrace than yard. As for the foliage: "I used a simple color palette of white and purple flowers," says Steidlmayer. "All the plants are low-water users that grow well with a balance of shade and sun, including some evergreens for year-round color."

**Red Twig Studio, [redtwigstudio.com](http://redtwigstudio.com)**