

## **Building Preferences - Philosophy**

Have you chosen a building style? Pueblo, Territorial, or Northern New Mexico or a combination thereof?

Would you prefer a home that is very traditional in appearance, a modern interpretation of an historical style, or something that redefines the possibilities of residential design?

Do you have any specific preference or aversion regarding building materials: frame, adobe, straw, steel, or concrete?

Do you prefer a one- or two-story home?

Are stairs or changes in interior floor elevation desirable if the home is one story?

Are you interested in building your home in accordance with universal access standards?

Are you concerned with the impact your home will have on the environment? How much emphasis do you place on energy efficiency?

Do you wish to incorporate active or passive solar features into your home?

Are you interested in providing a water catchment or cistern for your home?  
Household Profile - Building Size and Layout

Do you know exactly how large you want your home to be?  
How many people currently live in your home? What are their ages? Do you anticipate changes in the number of people living with you?

What size living room do you want? How often do you entertain? Number of guests?

Do you favor an open floor plan with a great room?

Do you prefer a dining area separate from the living area, i.e., a formal dining room?

Dining room size? What is the largest number of people you want to be able to seat for dinner?

Kitchen size? Do you want the kitchen open to or screened from the living areas?

Would you like a breakfast area in the kitchen? Is it desirable to have a desk or personal organization area in kitchen?

How many bedrooms or guest rooms will you need? What size?

How often do out-of-town guests stay with you?  
Are you considering building a guest house now? In the future?

How large do you want the master bedroom to be? Is a fireplace desirable?  
Optional? Essential?

Do you want the master bedroom area to be adjacent to or completely separate from the other bedrooms? Are you a morning person - on what side of the house do you want your bedroom to be?

What features do you want in the master bathroom? Sauna, steam, Jacuzzi, bidet, tub and shower, or tub only, etc.?  
Number of bathrooms?

Study or home office?  
How much closet and storage space do you need?

Will you require a garage? Finished? Heated?

Exercise room?

Patios, portals, or outside courtyard or garden area?

Do you pursue any interests or hobbies that require additional space or special considerations? Painting, music, weaving, or mechanical interests?

How often do you listen to music and where?

Do you want a security system, computer, TV, or other multi-media capabilities pre-wired into your home? Central vacuum?

Solarium, greenhouse, or sun room?

Number and location of fireplaces?

Does anyone in your family have allergies?

Does any member of your family have a chemical or environmental sensitivity?

Is landscaping an important issue? Permaculture? Native plants?

Is it a possibility that you will want to add on to your home in the future?

### **Building Finishes**

Floor finish: tile, wood, slate, flagstone, quarry tile, carpet, etc.?

Walls: drywall, hard trowelled gypsum plaster, or structolite; paint or sealer?

Ceiling finishes: vigas, latillas, pine tongue and groove, or cove plaster ceilings?

And what height do you want the ceilings to be in each room?

Wall openings?

Window and door selection is of paramount importance in establishing the quality of your home. Wherever possible, we recommend using the highest quality doors and windows available. Careful consideration should be made when

selecting door and window sizes as well. We are happy to make recommendations and assist you with this process.

Color and material for building exterior?

Mechanical considerations

Type of heating system? Radiant in slab, hot water baseboard, forced air, or solar assisted?

Will a septic tank and field be required?

Well or city water?

Are you interested in exploring options to recycle water or collect water from your roof?

Is natural gas available? Will you need a propane tank?

Do you require a dishwasher? Trash compactor? Recycling bins?

### **Budget for Construction**

Providing us with your proposed budget gives us a guideline for determining the total square footage and the quality of finish appropriate to your needs.

Typically, certain items will be considered a top priority, and frequently, in order to retain them, some compromise must be made in other areas. Part of our job is to furnish you with approximate building costs relative to your wishes so you end up with a design that reflects your dreams and your budget!

How much money have you budgeted for the entire project?

Will you be financing the construction of your new home? If so, have you spoken to a bank about financing? Pre-qualifying for a loan is the best way to establish the amount of money you will be able to spend on your new home.

### **Building Site**

Before we can even begin the design process, we will have to have all of the relevant information related to the building site, as detailed below. Have you already selected a building site, or are you in the process of purchasing property? Please bring the following information to our next meeting.

Plat plan showing building envelope or property set-backs  
Legal description of property (include future mailing address)  
A topographical map showing contour of site on two-foot intervals  
Desired location of house on plan  
Location of any existing structures, utility lines, or easements  
List of any existing structures, utility lines, or easements  
List of protective covenants, if any  
What utilities are available at your site? Gas, phone, electric, water, sewer, etc.  
Also, remember to bring any drawings or photographs you have of floor plans, elevations, or room layouts that you would like to incorporate into your design.

By designing and building a new home, you are embarking on one of the great adventures of your lifetime. We look forward to working with you to make this adventure as enjoyable, exciting, and advantageous as possible. Call us when you are ready to move ahead. We stand ready to help turn your creative dreams into your new residence!

Sincerely,

Tim S. Curry