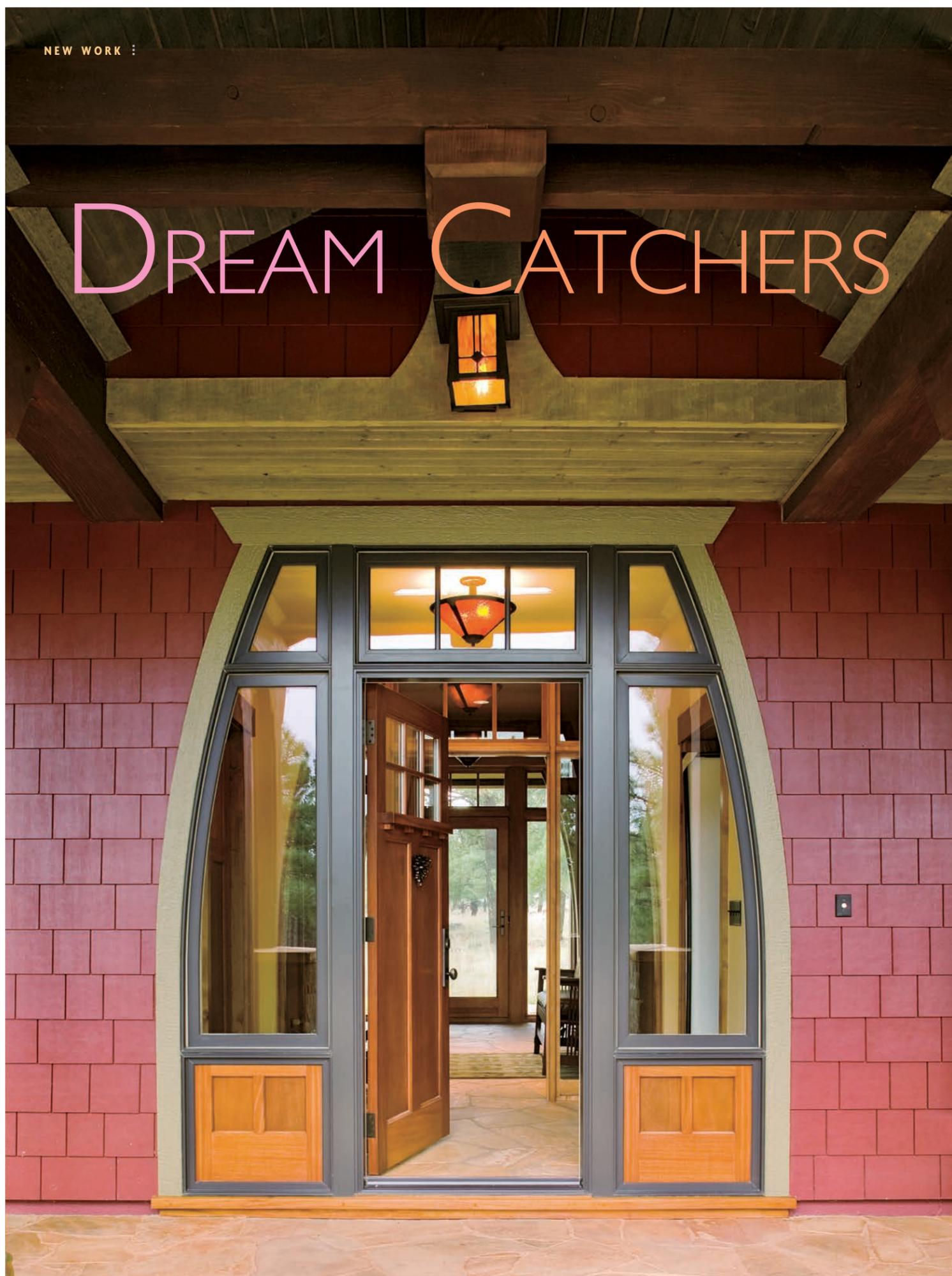


DREAM CATCHERS



OPPOSITE: Repetitive arches and indigenous Golden Buckskin sandstone flow from the walkway into the interior and through a rear door, leading the eye toward the mountains. **BELOW:** The Malapais chimney is mortared but has the look of rustic dry stack. **LEFT:** Ken and Dorothy Lamm are enthusiastic about the location—hiking, biking, and participating in art shows.



Recent transplants from Milwaukee, this couple built a contemporary bungalow inspired by Native American motifs in Flagstaff, Arizona—the culmination of a long love affair with the West.

BY LORI CONNER | PHOTOGRAPHS BY TIM FULLER

DURING A WILDERNESS backpacking trip in 1975, Ken and Dorothy Lamm began a love affair with the West. They loved Arizona’s rugged, open terrain, returning again and again over the years, and finally deciding to make the place a permanent home when Ken retired from his advertising career in Milwaukee. At the same time, the Museum of Northern Arizona, which is situated in the Coconino National Forest, was developing a small artisans’ residential community. The Museum specified that new structures be patterned on the grounds’ historic homes, following an Arts

and Crafts, Pueblo Revival, Spanish Colonial, or Forest Service style. Rather than a community planned around, say, golf, “the passion is the Colorado Plateau, the ancient people who lived here, and the beauty of the place,” says Ken, whose Museum membership extends to 2097. “They wanted a long-term relationship. If we were to sell, the new owners will have a connection to the Museum.”

The couple imagined a site-specific dwelling with a smaller footprint than that of their former mid-century glass house on Lake Michigan. “We’re not into anything formal,” says Dorothy, who says they try to be low-key and spontaneous. They were intrigued by concepts from

the company

BUILDER Harmony Builders (General Contractor), Flagstaff, AZ: (928) 779-2347, harmonybuilders.com
WOODWORKING Flagstaff Cabinet Co., Flagstaff, AZ: (928) 774-6006, flagstaffcabinet.com
 • Joe Guida, Guida Woodworks, Flagstaff, AZ: (928) 226-9719,

guidawoodworks.com
LANDSCAPING Morning Dew Landscaping, Inc., Flagstaff, AZ: (928) 779-3125, morningdewlandscaping.com

LIGHTING DESIGN Steve Klein, Klein Lighting, Milwaukee, WI: (414) 272-0012

materials

FLOOR TILE Walker Zanger: walkerzanger.com

ART TILE Motawi Tileworks, Ann Arbor, MI: (734) 213-0017, motawi.com

TILE RETAILER Mountain Vista Tile, Flagstaff, AZ: (928) 522-8077, mountainvistatile.com

IRONWORK Iron Forge, Los Angeles, CA: (800) 377-4231, ironforge.com

CUSTOM LIGHTING Mica Lamp Co., Glendale, CA: (818) 241-7227, micalamps.com

EXTERIOR LIGHTING Arroyo Craftsman, Baldwin Park, CA: (800) 400-2776, arroyocraftsman.com

FURNITURE L. & J.G.

Stickley, Manlius, NY: (315) 682-5500, stickley.com Purchased through Stickley Fine Furniture, Scottsdale: (480) 315-1063

WINDOWS Marvin Windows and Doors, Warroad, MN: (888) 537-7828, marvin.com

APPLIANCES Fridge: Sub-Zero, subzero.com • Range: Wolf Appliance, Inc., wolfappliance.com



LEFT: The bungalow is attractive from every angle. A garage connects via an old-fashioned breezeway. The brick red, duck-blind green, and soft heather green scheme complements the Arizona landscape.
ABOVE: Local artisan Joe Guida created the front porch railing according to the architect's design, borrowing from the Hopi symbols for thunder, lightning, and rain.
BELOW: Architect Richard Sherer of Deep River Partners in Milwaukee.



Deep River Partners Program Notes

"We select the builder based on work they've done," says architect Richard Sherer of Deep River Partners. He adds that the homeowners, Dorothy and Ken Lamm, had forwarded to them their "short list" of builders to interview.

• For his part, Ken praises the architect. "We had an architect who could talk to people," he says. "Some architects are dreamers; Richard is a design/build architect—he never designed

anything that didn't work." • Sherer—whose partner is his sister, interior designer Susan Sherer—says you have to "learn from working in the field. We work in an atmosphere that our vendors, contractors, and artisans can flourish in, too—that encourages spirits to be elevated." • "The reason the Lamms' house looks so cool is because the contractors were excited! This isn't stuff they do every day. True craftsmen want to be proud of their work."



• **RICHARD AND SUSAN SHERER, DEEP RIVER PARTNERS, MILWAUKEE, WI: (414) 276-8550, deep-river.com**

the book *The Not So Big House*, with its entreaty for a return to permanence, bringing the outside in, union of form and function, human scale, and beautiful detail. These are, of course, the ideals embraced by the original Arts and Crafts movement.

The Lamms hired Deep River Partners, a practice owned by a pair of siblings: architect Richard Sherer and his sister Susan Sherer, an interior designer. The Lamms were drawn to the partnership's thoughtful approach and commitment to stewardship, which they felt would en-

hance the conception and execution of this new yet historic property.

Besides wanting "to simplify their lives," says Richard Sherer, Ken and Dorothy wanted to "create an energy-efficient home with gorgeous views of the mountains. I think all that would be tough to find, or to re-engineer in an existing house."

REMINISCENT of original Arts and Crafts architects, Sherer uses a signature motif for his new commissions.

Furniture, including Harvey Ellis inlaid chairs, are re-issues by Stickley. On the coffee table sits a Hopi canteen by Gloria Kahe. The pewter fireplace screen by Iron Forge, an Edgar Brandt design, recalls the largest stand of Ponderosa pines in the world, there on the Colorado Plateau. The tile is Motawi's 'Poppy'. Masks over the fireplace are by internationally recognized artist Gregory Lomayesva.



A curved dropped ceiling defines the kitchen area, where “knotless select” alder was used for cabinets. ABOVE: Motawi tile on the backsplash echoes the Ponderosa pines and San Francisco Peaks. BELOW: Countertops are wood and Avonite. Clean lines are assured with panels that hide outlets and electronics (a telephone drawer flips open). The Wolf cooktop and oven and Sub-Zero’s integrated refrigerator (above right) are unobtrusive.



In this house, a graceful, Art Nouveau-influenced arch is a foil for the otherwise rectilinear Craftsman lines. The arch appears in special areas including the front entry, interior door openings, and the fireplace surround.

Built-in bookcases, desks, and alcoves provide storage and workspaces, along with display areas for the couple’s collection of Native American art. (For future reference, a set of blueprints is stored in the newel post at the bottom of the stairs.) The earthy color palette was inspired by indigenous flora and rock, including Malpais and Buckskin sandstone. Three different wood stains, applied to alder and cherry woodwork, add even more interest and depth.

Transom windows atop doorways and windows wash every corner of the 2,750-square-foot home with natural light. With ceiling fans turned on, the ventilation afforded provides summer cooling without air conditioning. Other sustainable features include passive solar heat, radiant heat, high-efficiency boilers and appliances, water-saving plumbing fixtures, low-e glazed windows,

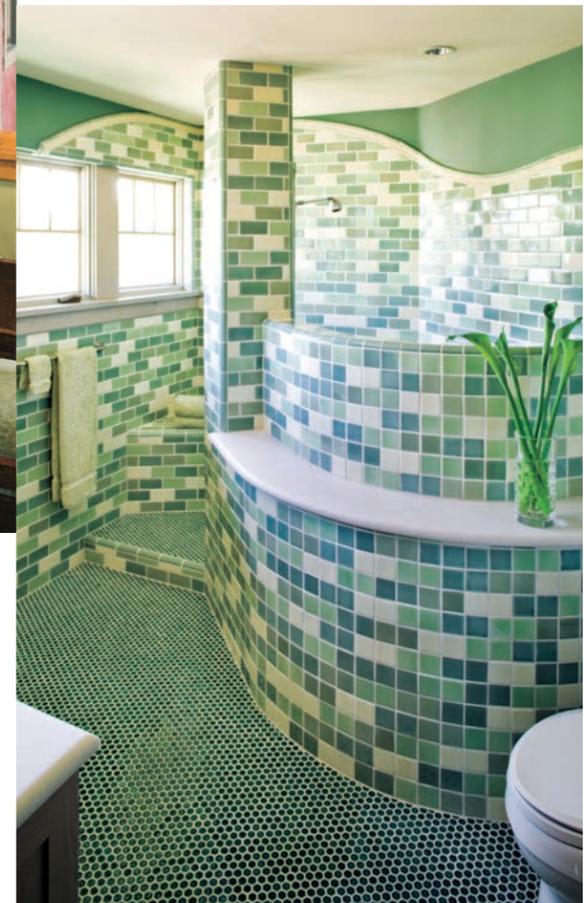
and a fireplace with an efficient Rumford firebox.

Custom windows throughout the house were designed by the architect and produced by Marvin. Low maintenance features on this new house include aluminum-clad windows, cementitious shingles that hold paint longer than wood, and metal roofing with a baked-on factory finish.

Ken and Dorothy have enjoyed taking classes at the local university, among other forays into the area’s cultural and natural history. During a museum-sponsored seminar, a local Hopi teacher advised them “to walk every day on the earth.” That advice, taken literally, inspired a walkway made of natural grass sprinkled with stone, instead of poured concrete. Morning Dew Landscapers designed a riparian area in front of the house: rainwater runoff from the roof descends along rain chains into

ARTISTS AND INSPIRATION Gloria Kahe through Spirit Horse Gallery, No. Medina, TX: (830) 589-7587, spirithorsegallery.us • Jean Sahmie through Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, AZ: (928) 774-5213, musnaz.org • Gregory Lomayesva: lomayesva.com

BELOW: Rounded corners in the master bath mimic the curves of adobe construction. Precise dimensions of the unique wave wall were laid out to scale by the architect, and then measured repeatedly during installation by Mountain Vista Tile.



copper bowls, or is directed to the native plants through rocky culverts. The plantings will eventually spread to blend the property back into the forest.

The porch railing, too, is informed by the indigenous people, incorporating Hopi symbols for thunder, lightning, and rain. “The native people talk about water as life,” says Ken. With respect and sensitivity, the couple had their use of Native motifs approved before construction. ■