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Buenos Dias.... Hello again, and so soon. Having talked to some of you after our relocation, there was a general interest in our house. How it looked inside, the views, and other general questions. This update will give you a general perspective on our Las Cruces Showcase home, its location, and some current happenings in our new Southern New Mexico home.

To start, the previous newsletter showed our home with Picacho Mountain in the background. The mountain was less than 1 mile away. Not tall, but very steep. The next three views show our home as it fits into the terrain and its location from town.



↑ This view shows the backside of the house as it faces down the ridge looking towards town. Garage is on right; master bedroom/sitting room on extreme left; great room in the middle. The huge patio is sheltered from the sun by the 12-foot overhang. Critter wall is visible as is the terraced stone wall (remember, we are on a sloped hill.) Note, all homes have flat roofs.



↑ This view tells a lot. Neighbors to West (right) are quite a distance away. Only 54 lots in subdivision; 29 homes built or under construction. Minimum lot size is one acre. Maximum is seven acres. Ours is 1¾ acre. An empty lot sits to the right (and just above) of the right retaining wall; another neighbor is building on extreme top right. Yes, with garage in the rear, that's a long driveway with the turnaround on our right; retaining walls are generous and long. Across the street (not visible) and in the background is empty land (possibly a development, but its prospect is poor due to not-so-good views.) Next plan, xeriscaping.



↑ Taken from the crest of the empty lot above us, we look east towards greater Las Cruces. Elevation is great; view is somewhat unobstructed. At night it's glorious. Two empty lots are in the background. One on extreme left will not block any views when built. One left of dead center (near the three palm trees) is currently under planning/construction and will block partially our view of the town, but not the mountains. Met with the new neighbors and told them.... " ... block my views, and you

cannot borrow any of my tools." Nice people, but architectural design committee (yes, we are under covenants here and improvements are controlled) will dictate and limit any and all view impediments. The three-car garage is on left, two bedrooms are next (to right) of it. Curved wall on right is study/office. Two furnaces/AC's are on roof. Main entrance is in center.

Now ... a brief tour of the inside of the house. The great room is our combination family room / living room / breakfast area. Folks.. it's huge. All of our furniture fits neatly into this one large room. Rear is breakfast area ... center is formal ... closest is entertainment area. Floor is Italian tile. The center kiva (fireplace) is the focus of the room. Made of adobe. To the left of the kiva is the built-in entertainment center. The vigas (pine logs across the ceiling) add a certain rustic charm to the room, plus, they support the roof. Double door in the background leads to the patio. Five large fixed windows on the curved wall in the center give us a panoramic view of the city and most of the valley below. Before we subscribed to satellite TV, that view was our TV for a few weeks. Picture taken 8AM.



The kitchen / dining room are adjacent to each other. The dining set + end table by window we bought locally. Inexpensive, but the style is true Southwest. By the way, do notice my elk racks hanging in the great room & dining room. Now, that's making best use of the trophies. Also note the large painting on the dining wall. Looks familiar? Dad's. The kitchen is a joy. Wormy maple custom cabinets, Bosch stainless steel appliances, center island with cooktop, two skylights, and a floor plan that's comfortable. Valley view from kitchen window. The entryway at the rear leads to the garage (straight) and to the laundry room (right.) Pictures taken 8AM.

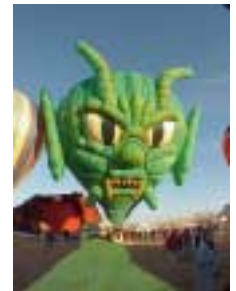


The master suite and the other two bedroom / office are somewhat standard in size. The only other notable room is the master bathroom, shown on right. Picture was taken from inside the shower. Tile floor, whirlpool tub, two-person shower (romantic) with two showerheads and two controls, his and hers vanity (mine is on right, out of sight,) and a toilet in a separate small room. Ceiling is nine feet high. Glass blocks in wall add plenty of light and still give privacy. Personal hygiene was never this elegant.



Digressing for a moment, living in Las Cruces does present a few interesting opportunities. Here's one of them. A few weeks ago the annual Mesilla Valley Balloon Rally was held in town. The event was small but similar to the large one that Albuquerque hosts each year. Over 90 balloons were inflated and launched at daybreak. And some were spectacular. At night they held the "balloon glow". After the morning rally, when we returned home, we could watch from our patio nearly all of the balloons as they floated across the valley. Everyday brings new surprises.

As we are in the last stages of our settling-in, we have not had the opportunity to do any exploring of our new home state. Once the house is in order, day trips, a little skiing, perhaps a longer trip here or there will be in order. In the meantime, we are becoming more familiar with the city, its restaurants, shopping and social happenings. More to follow in the next few months. In



Ed & Dolores

the meantime, do keep in touch, but when you call don't tell us about your not-so-nice weather. Ours is near perfect. By the way ... xeriscaping needs explaining. It is landscaping for arid regions, whereby native and water-conserving plants are used primarily. Color, no watering after the first year, and no maintenance is the rule. **Gracias..... and adios.**