

Why we love Three Feathers

- We literally have never tired of gazing with appreciation at the myriad of details that went into the construction and design of this home. Whether all of the carvings, or the embossed copper in the skylights and the kitchen cabinets. Or the bell in the rear wall of the courtyard, or the arrow slit in the back gate. Or the drama of the spiral cedar staircase, the curve of the walls, the fan vault in the living room mirrored in the stepdown stairs... the list goes on and on.
- The use of traditional materials makes it like living in a clay vessel with carved wood sculptural details. It is literally, as mirrored in what others have reflected, like residing in a living piece of art.
- The two foot thick adobe walls are very comforting and grounding and have a wonderful sense of solidity, warmth, and protection.
- Cooking in the kitchen on the Aga stove is wonderful. The weird thing, though, is until you open the hatch door, you don't really smell the cooking. Hence, if you forget something is cooking, you may find charred remains days later. The way the cast iron works makes the oven self-cleaning – a great feature in the advent of charred remains. Vegetables and meat beautifully roast in this oven. Pies are juicy and crust browns perfectly. Cooking in the Aga is like an intuitive improvisation, and quite fun. It is liberating not having to worry about exact temperatures.
- In the winter, you can hang damp socks or a not-quite-dry shirt over the railing in front of the Aga and they will safely dry. The Aga is also a heat source in the winter for the kitchen and dining room.
- Living in the quiet of the pinon forest below with the ponderosa and aspen further up the mountain is magical. The bigger trees are all well over 100 years old, and it's wondrous to live among them. There is a certain serenity, especially when the landscape is blanketed with snow. It can feel like we are in a private oasis, even though in a neighborhood, and with easy access to town. We have the best of both worlds. And, the wildlife, the coyotes howling at night, the birds squawking and playing throughout the day– blue jays, magpies, flickers, ravens, hummingbirds, the squirrels chattering, the bunnies munching on the grass, the deer on a rotational migration to sample the tender apple leaves.... is well, for lack of a better word, wild!
- The views from the windows of the house are lovely. Upstairs, the views over the Rio Grande gorge to San Antonio peak are staggering (this is scores of miles away). The views of the distant twinkling lights of town in the evening from the living room windows, the views out the back of the hills and mountains behind us, the views of the rose garden from the master bath tub, the views of the lilac blooming in the spring from the dining room windows, the views of Taos mountain Views, views, views.
- The courtyard is private and comfortable. On a moonless night, you can get an astonishing view of the Milky Way, without really leaving the house.

- There is a very peaceful portal to sit beneath at the back of the studio and enjoy views of Picuris peak in the distance through the trees and over the arroyo. This is a great place to hang out with a coffee or a glass of wine and unwind.
- The terraced front flagstone garden and stone walls are a graceful approach to the front door from the road, and remind us of Tuscany. Bearded irises planted beside these terraces return year after year in all their spring glory adding a special touch. Lilacs also bloom in front of the kitchen and dining room windows in the spring, and wildflowers dot the landscape in the summer. In the winter, the outdoor Christmas tree beside the entry stairs and front door is strung with lights. The courtyard, on the other hand, has lights strung up all year round.
- The land behind the house is largely uninhabited and creates an open vista, like a private forest behind, all the way to Picuris Peak.
- The rainwater catchment system is not only environmental, but provides lovely soft rainwater for showering all year round.
- The six lovely kiva fireplaces provide warmth and beauty. Their clay paint is glazed with mica, as are many of the walls, giving a nod to the local now-defunct mine nearby in the forested landscape behind this home.
- There are a variety of stone littered on the ground like pink granite and flint as well as the mica, making this a rockhounds paradise.
- This home is conveniently located on the south side of Taos:
 - Easiest access to Espanola, Santa Fe and Albuquerque of almost anywhere in the Taos area
 - Easy and direct 10 – 15 minute drive into the Town of Taos on well maintained roads
 - Quiet and feels like it's really out of town, but with the advantages of being very close to town.
- Although the road is private, it's in good condition and useable in all seasons. It is reliably maintained and the road maintenance fees are relatively inexpensive.
- Radon has already been mitigated and in an aesthetic way. Older adobe houses generally won't have mitigation, and most homes have unhealthily high radon levels in northern NM.
- The irrigated square garden and courtyard garden and garden boxes with well amended soil makes it easy to grow a variety of plants.
- The house has many unusual features, and they don't build like this any longer as it's just too labor intensive and expensive. All of the details like: poured mud floors, handmade Saltillo tiles, cedar thresholds, the incredible cedar spiral staircase, all the carvings (the hermit, the two monks, the eagle wings, the doors and window surrounds, the hidden little carvings like the angel above the door threshold), the tile mosaic stair

railing, the lookout hatch on the back gate, the nichos cut into the adobe walls, etc. These features require artisans with traditional knowledge, and they are in short supply.

- The house has a few possibilities for expansion, which would make a great home even more amazing:
 - o expansion of master closet downstairs and bathroom upstairs;
 - o building a spiral staircase to the highest roof, and putting in a deck which would have 360 degree views.
- All the tubs have functioning jets, which after a hard day of skiing are a wonderful thing.
- The huge walk-in shower in the master bathroom is extremely comfortable.
- On demand heating of hot water for showers or baths means you can luxuriate, and not have high energy bills for hot water.
- The attention to insulation means that you can easily heat the house so that it's comfortable everywhere.
- Besides the Aga oven, there is a very large Sub Zero quality fridge freezer with a custom exterior that blends well with the kitchen cabinets.
- There is lots of storage, between the big pantry, mechanical room in the courtyard, laundry closet, old water heater closet, closets in each bedroom, and the two sheds outside, not to mention the studio itself.
- Knock on wood, we never have had any theft or break-ins or squatters and we have been here part-time for over twenty years. We have always felt comfortable leaving the house on its own. We feel this isn't luck though, and put it down to having beefed up the security of the house with enough visible features that burglars are discouraged.
- For the most part, the neighbors are private and stick to themselves, yet if you see them on the road they are perfectly friendly. There are occasional invitations out to lunch and that sort of thing, so not complete strangers. Currently, it's primarily a neighborhood of white-collar professionals, retirees, and a few artists. It is a mix of part-timers and full-timers, originating from Texas, California, New York, Indiana, and New Mexico. Some, like us, have been here longer than twenty years and some as recent as a few years. Stakeout drive is very close with even more near neighbors.