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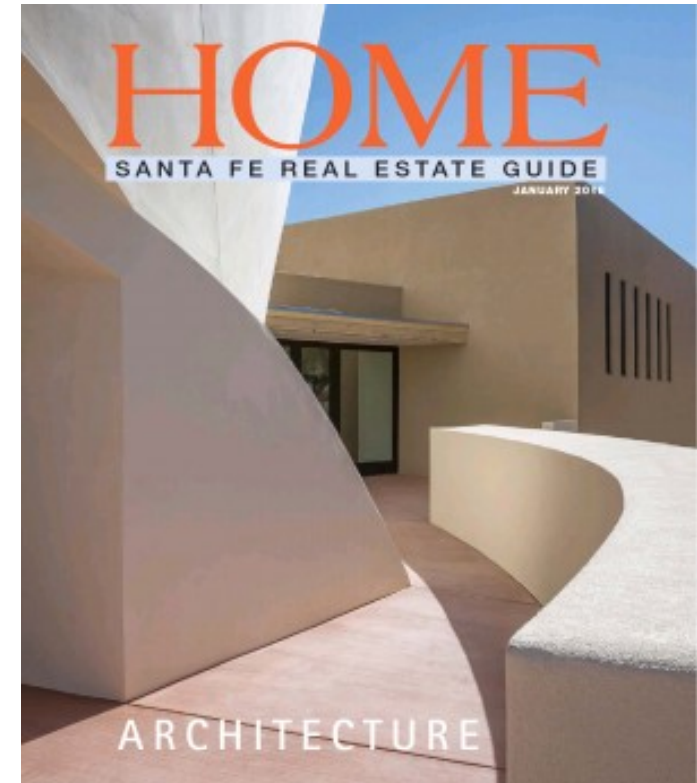


Posted: Saturday, October 5, 2013 7:00 pm

By Nate Downey
For The New Mexican

Your quest for the perfect home may have come to an end. With its passive-solar architecture, natural and local building materials, exquisite attention to detail, stunning views and convenient

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The Full Circle Synergy House. Courtesy photo

location, the Full Circle Synergy House might not be perfect for you, but it would certainly fit the bill for folks who are chemically sensitive, ecologically conscious, aesthetically minded, comfort-oriented or spiritually inclined.

It's a child-friendly, 3,000-square-foot home with an additional 550-square-foot garage currently set up as a workshop — complete with storage loft. It's the creation of the late Diego Mulligan and his wife, Jennifer Hanan. For years, the couple produced the radio program *The Journey Home*, and in their spare time they created a gem of a house in Oshara Village.

“What do you like most about it?” I asked.

“I think the open floor plan and how accessible each function is,” Hanan replied. “There's the dining, the kitchen, the recording studio, even some sleeping, and it all unfolds smoothly into a central living space.” Pointing over her shoulder to a sunken living room with rounded posts, vigas and bancos, the space seemed to exude inspiration. Behind her, a wall of plants created nothing if not an invitation for creativity.

“What's the studio about?”

“Diego and I were planning some amazing stuff. The studio is wired for anyone who wants to record music or video, and it'd be great for editors of huge amounts of data,” she explains. On the other side of the tech spectrum, the whole house is also hardwired with about a dozen ports for people concerned about the health effects of Wi-Fi.

The outside walls are made of a strong, lightweight block called aerated autoclave concrete. “The AAC insulates really well in both summer and winter,” Hanan reported as her smile widened, “and all the interior walls are made out of



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compressed-earth block produced on site by the locally based Mean Green Adobe Machine.”

Above all, Mulligan loved his semi-secret kiva. According to Hanan, he’d climb in and eventually get to a pretty deep spiritual place. This windowless circular basement would also be perfect for cold storage, a wine cellar or whatever it is people do with basements. (I’ve lived in Santa Fe too long to know.)

Hanan will be renting (not selling!) the house as of Nov. 1, so please contact her at journeyhome@ksfr.org for info. She’s also hosting an event at the Synergy House from 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19. All friends of Jen and Diego are welcome to come as well as anyone who may be interested in renting this magical place. Please bring a dish to share and know that a ceremonial tree planting in Diego’s honor will occur just before dusk.

Nate Downey is the author of Harvest the Rain (Sunstone Press, 2010) and the president of Santa Fe Permaculture Inc. You can contact him through his new company website, www.permadesign.com.

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