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farmers market fun

mountain retreat

a Craftsman-style lodge with National Forest views is a nature-loving family's personal paradise



Finished in a variety of materials—stacked stone, wood, stucco, and metal—Hank and Jennifer Bohnhoff's lodge-style home offers plenty of visual interest with its multiple pitched roofs. Kelly green adds an appropriately woody feel to the residence.



by Keiko Ohnuma photographs by Chris Corrie

As the leader of a women's hiking group that ranged all over the Sandias, Jennifer Bohnhoff knew what her version of paradise looked like. So when a fellow hiker told her about lots for sale on the back side of the mountain next to the National Forest, she and her husband Hank, an attorney, went to look that very weekend.

That was 15 years ago. The Bohnhoffs figured they would let their five-acre piece of heaven sit empty until they retired, visiting only for cookouts and stargazing with their sons. But retirement is still a decade away, and the Bohnhoffs, in 2018, are already enjoying a panoramic view of nature from their living room.

The lodge-like home built by Ted Lowe of Lowe-Bo Homes was meant to be a weekend getaway until the Bohnhoffs could move to Sandia Park permanently. But when Hank was appointed a judge on the State Court of Appeals in January 2016, his hectic schedule made it impractical to keep two homes. Since his commute had shifted from Santa Fe to Albuquerque, the drive was doable even from this remote location, so the Bohnhoffs sold their house in town and moved.

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Jennifer had known for years exactly what she wanted in their forever home, and when they met with Lowe, she brought along a magazine from 2000 featuring the type of Craftsman look they were after. "I expected Ted to show up with a checklist of features," says Jennifer of Lowe. "But Ted had a sketch laid out already, and he'd nailed it!" The Bohnhoffs were impressed with Lowe's instinct for what his clients craved. Lowe, for his part, quickly began to appreciate the challenge of developing his clients' chosen lot. "It was the most intense project I've ever worked on, as far as a home site," he says of the sloped and narrow lot.



The views are jaw-dropping through the floor-to-ceiling windows of the cozy and comfortable great room. Decorative beam trusses draw the eye upward for a dramatic appreciation of the soaring ceilings and vertical brick-clad fireplace.



Roomy and functional, the galley kitchen features ample cabinetry, stainless steel appliances, plenty of prep space, and an end cap wine rack that offers great storage in an easy-access location. Bar seating runs the length of the counter, illuminated by colorful, art deco-style pendant lights (below).



Indeed, it took all of 2015—the whole first building season—just to level and bring power to the site. Lowe thought they might be able to squeeze a single-level house on the lot if the house were narrow and long. But after multiple iterations, it became clear to the team that they would need a second story to accommodate the four bedrooms, 2.5 baths, and 3,450 square feet the Bohnhoffs wanted.

The lot had to be widened and leveled. From the yard, Hank points out where the house is flanked on both uphill and downhill sides with double retaining walls, each 100 feet long—a point of pride that some homeowners might reserve



The homey master suite is its own retreat, with Mission-style furnishings and separate seating. Below, the grandkids have fun bunk beds in the bedroom that feels like being at camp.



for a billiard room with wet bar. “They imported 2,500 cubic yards of ‘clean dirt,’ which is what the house is built on,” he explains, adding that the extra time and expense were worth it to him: “I wanted to get the house built right.” Lowe, whose background is in civil engineering, lists the reinforced “post-tension slab” underneath the house among his top accomplishments.

Construction didn’t start until April 2016, which posed little problem for the couple. After all, as Jennifer points out, they’d spent 14 years grilling on an empty lot. With design issues worked out during the year of site development, the home was built quickly and was move-in ready by Thanksgiving. Rather than splurging on fancy, high-end features, the Bohnhoffs sought to maximize the value of their wilderness location, its spectacular views, and “glorious sunrises,” per



Jennifer. Perched on the bottom end of Madera Canyon from the Sandia Peak ski area, their solidly built, comfortable home is one they'll be able to enjoy for decades to come.

"We're not 'pizza oven, whirlpool' people," says Jennifer, a schoolteacher at Edgewood Middle School, a short drive away. The wow factors most important to them were the Craftsman-style exposed beam trusses which, according to Lowe, "People don't do anymore." It made it that much harder to get them right.


Those trusses in the tongue-and-groove cathedral ceiling, the huge Pella windows, white oak floors, and custom red oak cabinets, are what impress the eye in a sweep of the circular, open ground floor. Wrapped around it are a modest master bedroom with stunning views and spacious bath, Hank's office, which opens onto the patio, and a clever butler's pantry that doubles as Jennifer's office—handy for knocking off emails between stirs.

The upstairs is reserved for guest rooms, plus there's a deck with a breathtaking perspective on forest, sky, and little else besides the



Above: The spacious master bath features a huge walk-in shower and separate soaking tub, and a blend of rich, sumptuous tile and stone for a layered look.

Left: The beautiful, deep veining of the green granite countertops is a perfect complement to the cabinetry.




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lights of Santa Fe on clear nights. Family is the focus here, as evidenced by the granddaughter's toy-filled hideout beneath the stairs, bunk beds piled with stuffed animals, and the spacious patio with its large outdoor grill. "It's a classically elegant home that fits their personalities," says Lowe, noting that the oak cabinets and marble countertops are places where Jennifer eschewed luxury in favor of investing in quality.

One of the more remote entries in the Fall 2017 Parade of Homes, the mountain getaway won a People's Choice Award, with its striking exterior of exposed trusses under the multiple-pitched metal roof and emerald green accents—a refreshing contrast to Albuquerque's prevailing building styles. The

location, of course, adds a priceless premium, which is why the Bohnhoffs invested so much effort and time to make it possible. Foxes and wild turkeys are regular visitors to the yard. A bobcat has been spied crossing the patio, and the neighborhood birds are vocal and visible.

The winding route to the home follows steep dirt roads that branch away from Highway 14, visible only as a distant ribbon of civilization. "Everyone tells me that people will think it's nuts—until they get here," Jennifer says of the drive. She indicates the breathtaking views from her living room. "This is why." 



For years before they ever broke ground on their home, the Bohnhoffs would drive out to their wooded lot to camp, grill out, and stargaze. Today those activities are a lot more comfortable thanks to a well-sited house that captures natural beauty from nearly every side.

resources

Builder

Lowe-Bo Homes
lowe-bohomes.com

Designer

Ron Montoya

Appliances

Ferguson Bath, Lighting & Kitchen Gallery
ferguson.com

Beams & Decorative Trusses

Wholesale Timber & Viga
wholesaletimber.net

Cabinetry

Albuquerque Cabinet Brokers

Countertops

Tom Sawyer Enterprises

Fireplace Mantel

Builders FirstSource

Fireplaces

Mountain West Sales
mountainwestsales.net

Furniture

Simply Amish

Garage Door

Nationserve; Overhead Door Corp

Landscaping

Territorial Landscape Co.

Lighting

Summit Electric

Painting

Above the Rest Painting

Stair Rails

Accent Stair & Specialty

Stucco

South Valley Plastering

Tile, Tile and Carpet Flooring & Window Coverings

Floorscapes

Wall Finishes

Char Construction

Windows

Pella Windows & Doors
pellasw.com

Wood Flooring

Benchmark Wood Floors

