

FAY'S TOUCH

DISTINCT AND MULTIFACETED — WORDS THAT DESCRIBE THE DECOR OF FAY WELLS' WEIMER HOME ALSO DESCRIBE THE WOMAN HERSELF

For Fay Wells, moving into her dream home had been a longtime coming. She and her husband, Frank "Peavey" Wells, found the ideal retirement spot with picturesque views of peaks and valleys in the Weimer area. But just as the couple was preparing to move into their brand new, custom-built home in 1999, Fay was seriously injured in an accident — her heel and ankle were broken in several places.

After months of recovery and rehabilitation with support from her large family, Fay was finally able to move in and begin making her new house



By Eric Mack

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into a home. Six years later, the Wells homestead is both a lovingly detailed homage to the Taos that Fay remembers from her childhood and a home filled with the warmth of family.

Fay's grandson sits at the kitchen table while her daughter sits at the desk, and grandma takes in the view of the Sangre de Cristos out of the family room window, just beyond the kitchen counter. The kitchen was specifically designed to be large enough for Fay's workspace needs.

"This is the center of the house," she explains. "I wanted to make sure it was big enough for everyone, and with enough room for my desk."

Space is the key to making this center of household traffic comfortable. Tall, arched cove ceilings look down on granite countertops outlining a central island with a six-burner gas stove that the family puts to good use. The kitchen opens into a fully furnished family room, allowing full view of all the home's favorite hangout spots.

Everything is decked out with all the latest technologies and

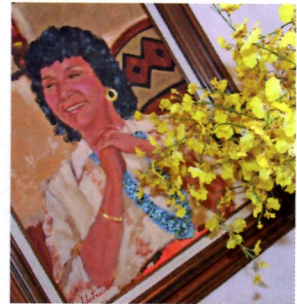




The impeccably manicured grounds give way to spectacular vista views. The foyer (opposite page) displays one example of the diverse art collection from around the world. Fay Wells (opposite, bottom)



The kitchen is equipped with a six-burner gas stove that the family puts to good use. Nichos (top right) can be found throughout the home. Fay's unique style mixes Asian with traditional Southwest (middle right). A portrait of Fay adorns the wall in one room.



amenities, but maintaining the traditional style that colors Fay's memories of the valley below was of paramount importance.

"I always loved the old homes with the big vigas. These we had brought in all the way from Oregon," she says, pointing out the thick beams that run the length of the family room. "And these beehive fireplaces; I just love them."

The fireplaces are sculpted into corners throughout the house, a subtle nod to the regional motif that dominates the Wells' home, but without being overwhelming. Southwestern earth tones throughout add smooth warmth, but Fay found small apropos ways of adding a splash of color here and there.

"I remember when I was young, some of the nicest houses had these beautiful blue window (frames)," she recalls. "I really wanted that, but it didn't really fit."

Instead, a smattering of blue can be found throughout the house – in carved designs on kitchen cabinets, stained glass over the entryway, or in a piece of art from a local artist.

Fay's personal attention to detail can even be found in the shape and substance of the walls themselves. Throughout the one-story home, nichos carved into walls house keepsakes and examples of the Wells' diverse collection of Hispano, American Indian and other art from around the world. Kachinas and Spanish carvings take up residence



Fay's personal attention to detail can be found throughout the home.

in the walls next to original works by the likes of Ed Sandoval and Kelly Pruitt.

Wells also strives to give each room its own distinct character. The ceilings throughout the home change from room to corridor to room, displaying varied com-

binations of vigas, latillas and high, arching coves. The master bedroom is designed with the same use of open space. There is a warmth to the modern luxuries that give a cozy feel in the kitchen and family room. Yet, just across a corridor, illuminated by a



Bancos attribute to the old charm of the colorful home. The backyard of the adobe home is perfect for entertaining. An ornate chandelier (below) adds just the right touch to the dining area.

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skylight, the game room and study model hand-troweled walls that expose individual strands of straw within a more traditional stucco finish.

Stepping outside and into one of the yards on the front, side or back of the house reminds Fay of why she chose this place. Colorful gardens

and fruit trees on the western side of the house give way to an unending valley vista.

"You can see the whole valley in front of a beautiful sunset from this porch," says Fay.

But it is the north-facing backyard with its mountain views that holds the most



meaning for the Wells'. That's because their granddaughter was married right here on the lawn in front of dozens of friends and family distributed among the wildflowers and flagstone pathways.

The Well's home is also plenty hospitable for less formal occasions. Fay has often hosted Kiwanis Club functions here, with a little help from a built-in backyard grill. There's also an outdoor

basketball court for the kids behind the garage. According to Fay, it could one day be the site of some future expansion; the cement court is solid enough to serve as a foundation for a future addition. That shouldn't be a problem for Fay. She says the more, the merrier:

"We love to have family and friends around. This house is a place where they can all come." ■