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Every Home Has a Story



Library

A TAOS REVIVAL

By Lindsey Rae Gjording

Through bold renovations and major design upgrades, a dark and neglected adobe was opened up to a new life.

When they first saw it, the house had seen better days. A patchwork of chain link, barbed wire, and cattle fencing stretched across the front. The stucco was cracked and failing, the roof leaked, and years of deferred maintenance had left the property feeling, in their words, "very derelict."

But for this couple, who relocated from Los Angeles to Taos in 2020, there was a bigger vision in mind. They could see the possibility.

"We saw 11 properties in one day," said Terry Markwell, who owns the property with her husband William Meyer. "This was the last one. And we thought, okay, let's go for it."



Casita - Before



Casita - After



Casita kitchen



Before/After of the main house

At the time, inventory in Santa Fe was scarce, and what they saw lacked what they were ultimately seeking: space, land, and a connection to the landscape. In Taos, they found all three. Set on 11 acres with sweeping views that include the beloved Taos Mountain, the property was brimming with potential.

"The bones were here," said William Meyer. "We just expanded on it."

What followed was not a simple renovation, but a full-fledged transformation, one that touched nearly every part of the home. "There's not a surface that wasn't left untouched," they explain. "We did everything."

The exterior required a complete overhaul. The original stucco was stripped and replaced with a new three-coat system reinforced with fiberglass mesh to prevent future cracking. The roof was repaired. And finally, the fencing was redone.

Inside, walls came down, some revealing surprises. "There was an unbelievable amount of wood in one wall," William said. "An entire hardware store's worth, for no structural reason." Removing it opened up the living space, allowing light to move more freely throughout the home.

That sense of openness became a guiding principle. One of the home's biggest shortcomings, they discovered, was that it failed to fully capture its most valuable asset: the surrounding landscape.

"Bizarrely, the main view direction, toward the mountain, wasn't emphasized," Terry explained. "You had to go outside to really see it. And we thought, come on! It's right there."

So they redesigned with intention, maximizing sightlines and natural light. Windows and spatial flow were reworked to frame the views, transforming the landscape into a central design element rather than an afterthought.

The renovation also included a substantial addition, nearly 5,000 square feet, including a garage, that extends the home's functionality while maintaining the architectural continuity of the place. Designed with flexibility in mind, the new wing operates as a private master suite but could be closed off entirely to function as an apartment.

"It gives the house a kind of versatility," said William. "You could have a main house and separate living spaces."

Their approach to interior design remained grounded in what was already there. Terry, an experienced designer, drew on both professional instinct and personal history to shape the interiors.



Foyer



Kitchen





Primary en-suite bathroom

"I think of it as Southwest with a contemporary, modern edge," she said. "But it's also very eclectic. A lot of it was dictated by what we already owned, pieces that are meaningful to us."

That layered sensibility is evident throughout the home, where Southwestern elements coexist with collected objects. Haitian metalwork hangs alongside inherited dishware and regional pottery, creating a space that feels both rooted and personal.

Even unexpected discoveries became part of the home's story. The property's fireplaces, three sculptural features they were initially unaware of, were later revealed to be the work of a noted artist.

Outdoors, the circular driveway replaced a more limited entry, pathways were expanded with flagstone, and a shed obstructing the view of Taos Mountain was removed entirely. The land itself became part of the experience, complete with walking paths that wind through the property's acreage.

For Terry and William, the move from California was about more than a change in scenery. After decades in Los Angeles, they were ready for something different, something more connected.

"We were living in a gated community where you barely saw anyone," Terry said. "One day we were out walking, and we looked at each other and thought, do we want to stay here forever? And the answer was no."

In Taos, they found not only a new landscape, but a new rhythm. Now, after years of renovating, their dream home is complete.

"It was about taking what was there," said Terry, "and bringing it back to life."

For more information about this property, please contact Robbie Puskarich, property caretaker, with The Walking Rain Group of Coldwell Banker Mountain Properties at 813-732-5819
https://www.markwelldesign.com/project-7.html