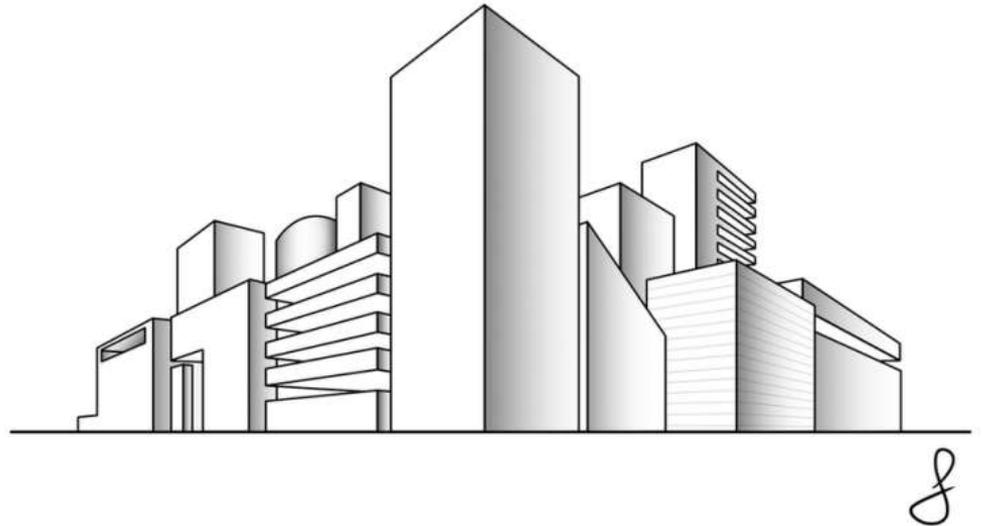


# Architecture of New Mexico

MUSEUM  
LESSONS

# What is *Architecture*?

- The art and science of designing and constructing buildings.
- Architecture attains both a practical and expressive achievement and thus serves both functional and artistic ends.



# *Architecture of New Mexico*

- Casa San Ysidro is an **adobe** home that was originally built by the Gutiérrez family in 1875.
- Life was a little different back then, but many buildings in New Mexico that are standing today were built during that time.
- Adobe is strong and built to last.



# *Adobe*

- Adobe is way of making buildings out of mud.
- Adobes are sun dried bricks made from a mixture of wet mud, clay, and straw.
- Adobe is one the earliest forms of building materials and is used all over the world.



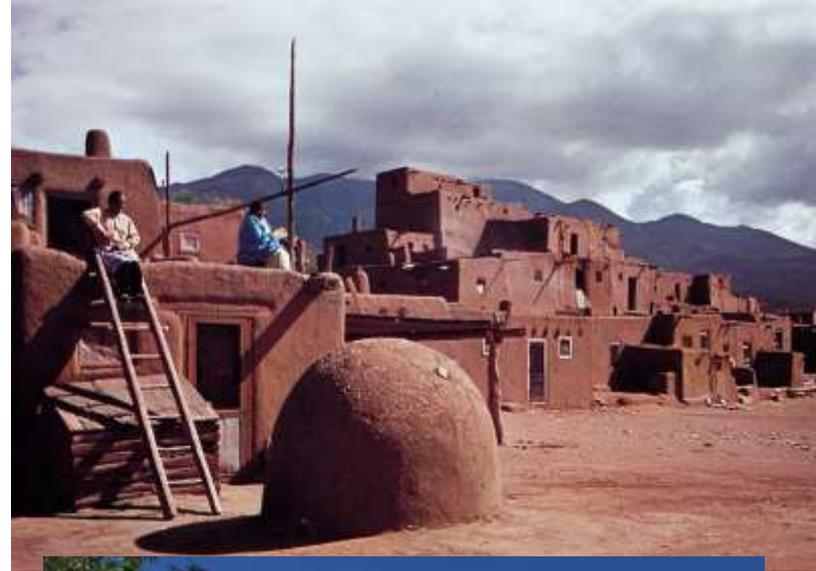
# *Adobe Architecture*

- Architecture in New Mexico has primarily been constructed using *adobe brick*.
- These bricks are great at helping keep the temperature inside buildings cool during hot days and warm during freezing nights.
- Mixing mud and forming adobe bricks brought many people together.



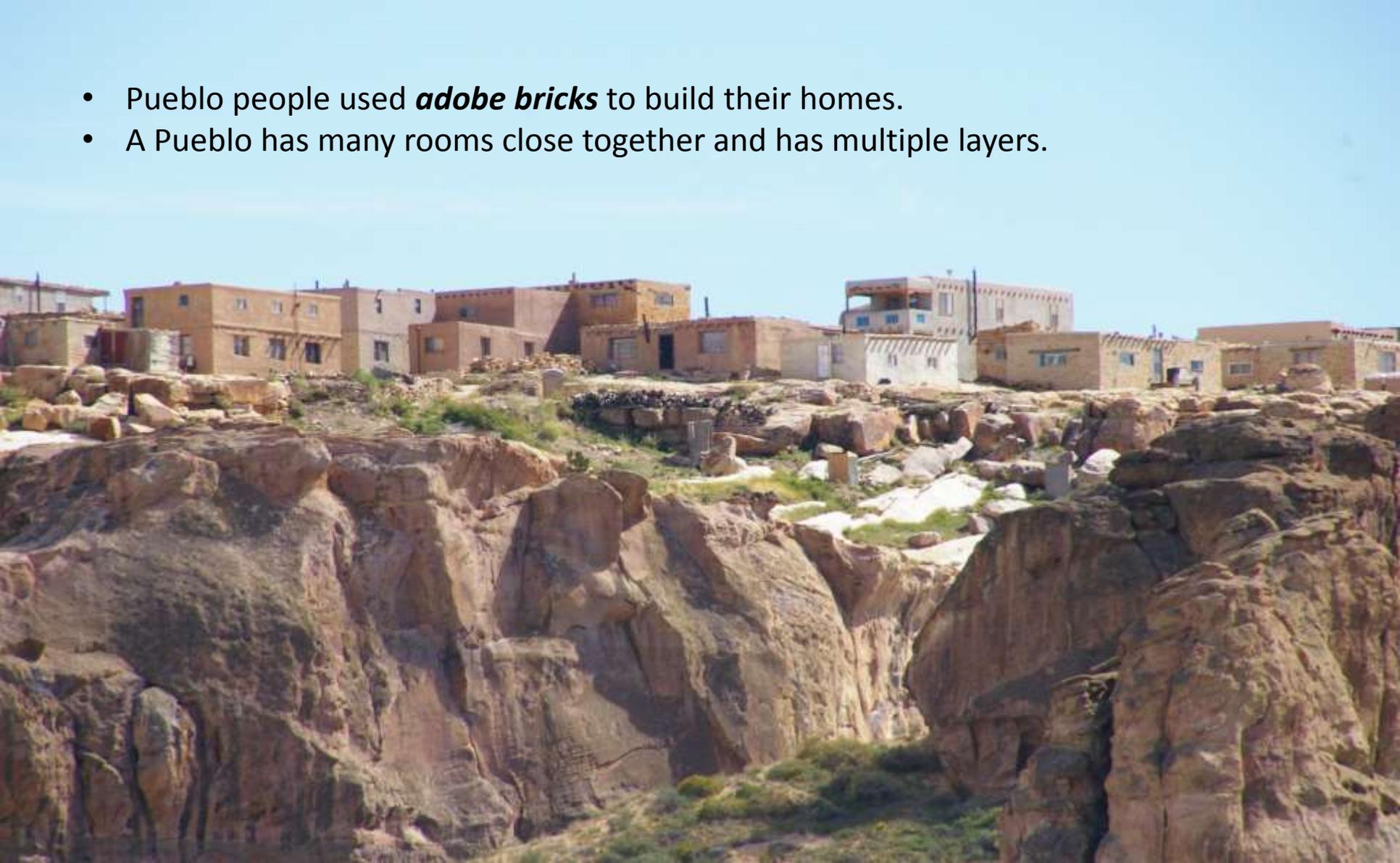
# *Styles of Architecture*

- Casa San Ysidro's architecture is influenced from a few different styles of architecture.
  - Pueblo
  - Spanish
  - Territorial



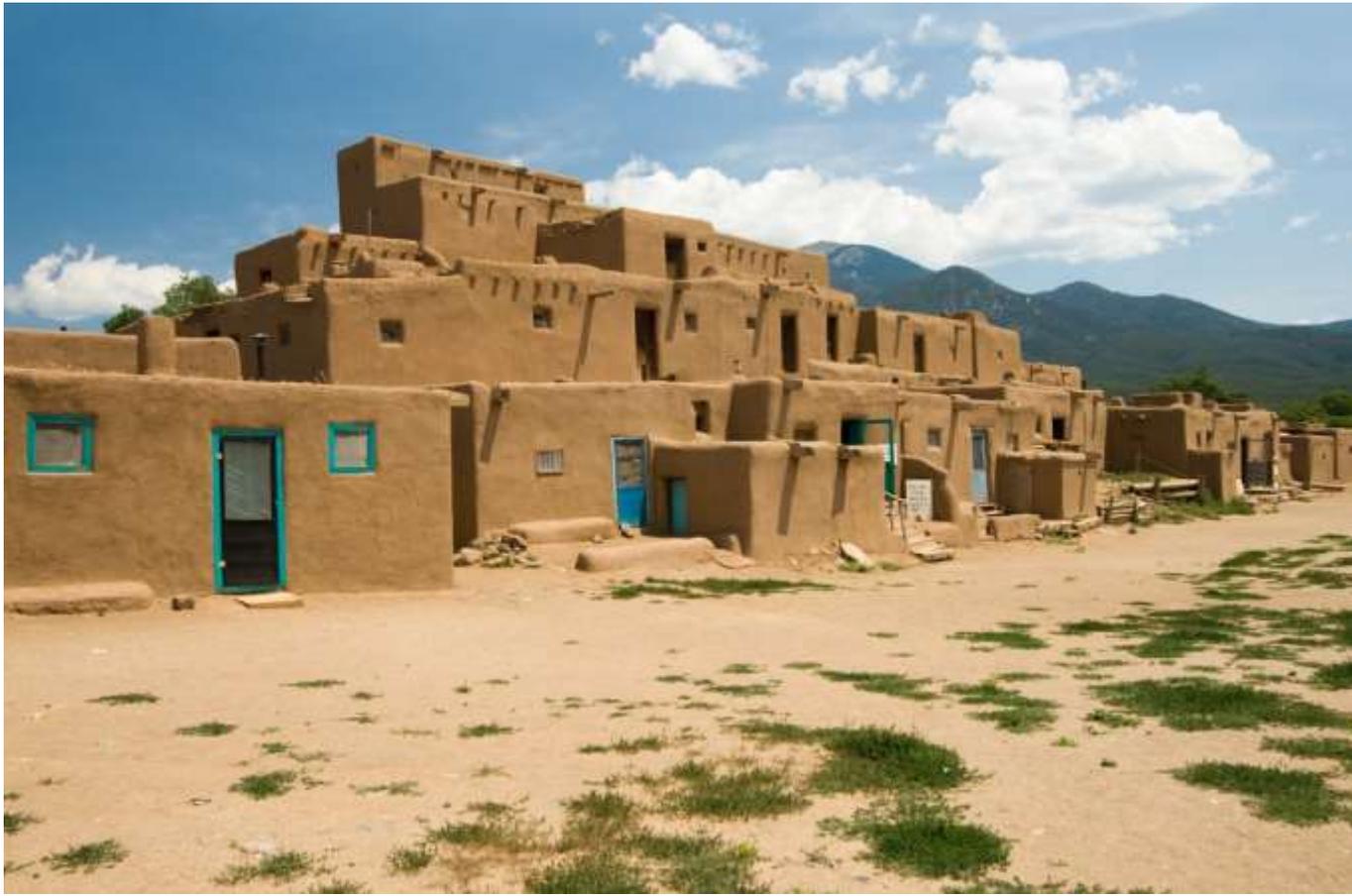
# *Pueblos*

- Pueblo people used *adobe bricks* to build their homes.
- A Pueblo has many rooms close together and has multiple layers.



# ***Pueblo Architecture***

- Traditional pueblo construction used limestone blocks and / or large adobe bricks. In a typical pueblo building, adobe blocks form the walls of each room as well as a central courtyard. These buildings can be up to five stories tall. Movement between stories was traditionally accomplished by the use of wooden ladders. Pueblos were also traditionally entered through rooftop openings as ground floor rooms didn't have doors.



# *Spanish Architecture*

- Spanish people organized their homes with family rooms tied onto a shared outdoor space.
- Spanish mission churches demonstrate the period when New Mexico was under Spanish rule.
- Spanish settlers were cut off from trade with others in North America.
- Supplies, technology, and ideas had to come from Spain.
- Spain was far away so local materials and ideas were used: flat roofs, earthen floors, mud plaster, wooden bars on windows, and vigas and latillas for the ceiling.
- Communities formed around a central plaza for defense.



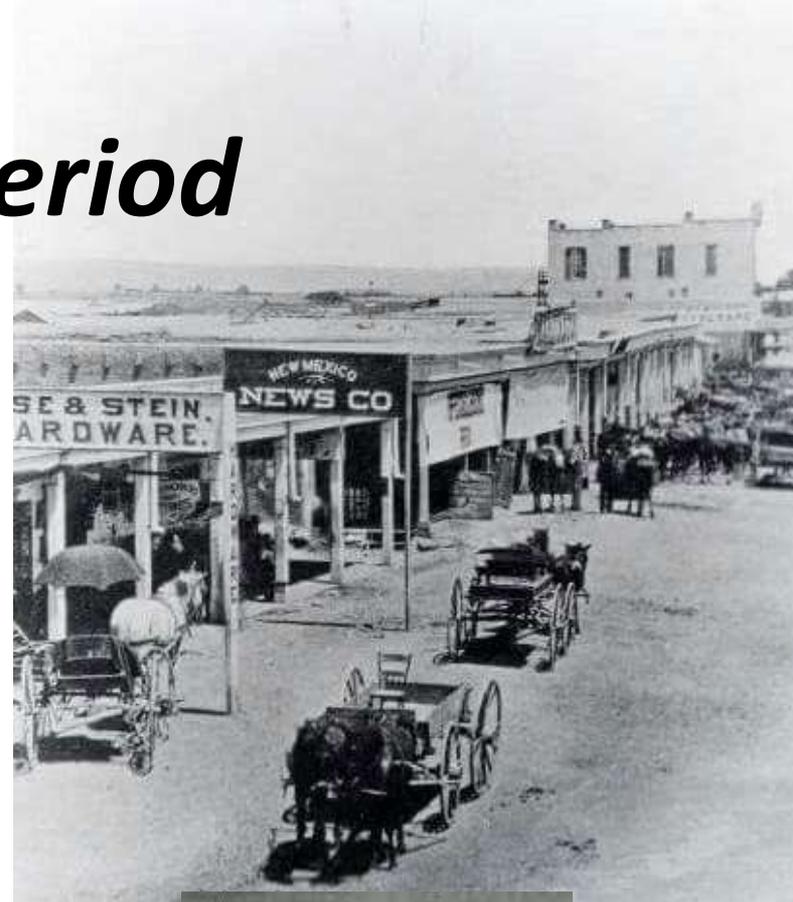
# Rancho

- Casa San Ysidro is also a ***Spanish-style Rancho***
- A Rancho was a Spanish ranch that was owned by a family who supervised workers and vaqueros (cowboys).
- During the Spanish Colonial period a rancho was typically a place for raising cattle.
- To encourage agricultural development, the New Mexican government distributed land grants to wealthy families.
- These well-connected families could secure grants for each of their family members, which created an elite class of rancheros who controlled thousands of acres of land.



# ***Territorial period***

- Before Casa San Ysidro was built, New Mexico was a part of Spain.
- When the house was built by the Gutiérrez family in 1875, New Mexico was no longer a part of Spain and had become a territory of the United States.
- As people across the U.S. entered the territory so did ideas about architecture during the ***Territorial period***.
- ***Territorial Period (1849-1912):***
  - New Mexico is ceded into the U.S. as a territory; however it takes 64 years before it becomes a state.



# ***Territorial Architecture***



- During the Territorial Period, New Mexican architecture borrowed ideas from architecture that was popular in the eastern United States at the time.
- With the arrival of Anglo-Americans in New Mexico, brick kilns and wood mills were built and established.
- Bricks were still too expensive to build entire houses with, however they were incorporated into adobe architecture.
- American military forts that utilized milled wooden beams were built along the Santa Fe Trail.

**Machine made woodwork like painted trim around doors and windows and triangular lintels above door and window frames**

**Kiln-fired bricks at the tops of walls and machine made woodwork**



# Casa San Ysidro

- Casa San Ysidro's architecture exemplifies the tension between tradition and change that New Mexicans have lived with for centuries.
- The property barrows styles of architecture that are from Pueblo, Spanish, and Territorial architecture.
- These buildings are mixed to evoke early adobe tradition.
- Some components of Casa's architecture consist of....



# Vigas:

- Long wood poles used to support the roof of an adobe house.
- The end of vigas can often be seen sticking out of the wall.
- Some vigas had to be brought great distances.
- These building techniques date back to the Ancestral Puebloan peoples, and vigas are visible in many of their surviving buildings.



# Latillas:

- Latillas are narrow strips of wood or branches used to fill in between the vigas to hold up the roofing materials.
- Latillas are often left exposed.



# Corbels:

- A corbel is a carved beam that is used on top of posts or pillars to support beams and vigas.
- It helps spread the weight of the roof and serves as an ornamental element.
- Corbels are often shaped to resemble apple or pomegranate trees.





# Canales:

- Canales are wooden water spouts which allow rain to drain away from the roof of an adobe building without causing harm to the building.
- Because adobe buildings have flat roofs there is a need to drain rain.
- Some canals have metal lined to help water flow.



# Parapet:

- A parapet is a low protective wall along the edge of an adobe roof.
- They are used to protect people from falling off of the roof.



# Portales:

- Portales are porches found on many adobe buildings.
- Roofs are often supported by posts made from whole tree trunks.



# Corrales:

- This is an enclosed space used to house animals and farm equipment.
- Animals need protection from the weather and from other animals.



# Plazuela:

- A plazuela is a courtyard or plaza typically surrounded by walls.
- This was an open area where families could do daily chores.



# Zaguan:

- A zaguan is a passageway that leads from a front entrance to a patio or a courtyard.
- It is also an area where animals and shipments of goods would have come into a house or rancho.
- This area might have a big gate (portone) to let people and animals through.



## The Cultural and Historical Period Contexts of Architecture in:

Spanish Colonial and Territorial Era (Mexican Era)

Anglo American Neoclassicism (Revival of Classical Style)

20<sup>th</sup> Century Romantic Anglo Transplants (Minge)

- The architectural aspects of the Casa San Ysidro reflect all three contexts.
- Representative of the 20<sup>th</sup> century interpretation of history and the revitalization and recreation of history.
- One of the challenges is to understand the distillation of Spanish Colonial and Territorial Era New Mexico.
  - Organizations around the extended family.
  - Spanish Colonials introduced an interest in rationality and geometric forms.
  - Early Spanish/Mexican traditional floor planning and the organization of space reflected individual family rooms of linear forms tied onto a shared outdoor space.
- Greek revitalization is geometric and angular using Greek temple architecture (pillars and triangular pediments)
- The early accounts of Anglo and Santa Fe trail travelers encountering Mexican culture had difficulty discerning adobe buildings from landscape buildings because they didn't have pitched roofs.
- Anglo cultures were fond of building log cabins
- The organization of social life around a single great room was a place where families could entertain
- Chests / Trunks were the primary furniture
- No metal tools in NM
  - All metals were brought in

- Cultural and ethnic identity in the 20<sup>th</sup> century – not all aspects of culture became signs of ethnic identity
  - The architecture embraced through Hispano - Anglo houses
  - There were no saw mills so Territorial era carpenters detailed and assembled things by hand
  - In the 1870's large glass panes became prevalent
  - NM embraces the variation that the 1880 railroad brings ethnic - mutual consciousness
  - The Santa Fe fiesta national pioneer days
- Historic Preservation
  - The crystallization of NM architecture comes from Santa Fe
  - The buildings are mixed to evoke early adobe tradition
  - Casa San Ysidro is the result of four historical periods
  - Corrales was an area where people with an interest in history moved within Albuquerque
  - Alan's design sensibility really makes Casa a memorable house (something overlooked)
  - Romantic revision and revitalization finds continuity in the changing world.

Casa is not a pueblo, there is a tendency to confuse pueblo with Spanish Colonial style because the Spanish pueblo revival style fused the two cultures together.

A pueblo has many rooms massed together and is multilayered.

Casa and Territorial Spanish architecture was built at a very integrated and communitarian level.