

# MetroABQ Real Estate Newsletter



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**February**

**Exploring a Corner of Downtown:**  
**Outside The Harwood Arts Center**  
**Woodcut Prints Along Mountain Road**  
**Walkabout in the Historic Fourth Ward**



You know how you plan to do just one thing, but then other cool things get in the way? Downtown Albuquerque can be like that--it's easy to find yourself exploring places that weren't part of the plan. On my way into Downtown to pass by an almost 100-year-old adobe home designed by architect Anna Gotshall, I became distracted.

### [Back to the Harwood Arts Center...](#)

Heading west on Mountain Road from Sixth St, I passed by a newer fractal installation & had to stop. I love fractals & there's always a rotating [Fractal Foundation](#) image on the north side of the Harwood Arts Center complex, seen above. The elementary-school-children-created fractal images can be found around the MetroABQ, [many found here](#). A previous [Harwood Fractal is here](#).

The [Harwood Arts Center](#), directly below, sits Downtown on the edge of the [Eighth Street Forrester](#) historic district & is the large red square in the upper right-hand corner of the map, far below. The historic building began life in 1925 as a Methodist boarding school for girls. It features a two-story H-shaped configuration with a red brick facade & Neoclassical Revival detailing. Neoclassical tends to emphasize the separate identities of each of its parts. If you've ever been in The Harwood, you know how the H-shape creates different separate but connected inside corridors: one section houses the Escuela del Sol elementary school, other sections have artists' studio spaces; there is a large cafeteria in another section, and gallery spaces in other corners of the building. The Harwood has evolved into a vibrant artists' community, serving a broad audience with a variety of programs.

Two below is the current winter Harwood Yard Art exhibition in front of the building: adobe block mountainscapes painted pink & fronted with thin mirrors that reflect the scene back to the viewer. As the complex isn't currently open to the public, I could not find who the artist was to credit the piece.







## The Friends of Mountain Road Woodcut Prints

From the fractal-side of the Harwood Arts Center, you can't help but notice the white banners hanging from stylized posts along both sides of Mountain Road. One of the banners mentioned the [FriendsOfMountainRoad.com](http://FriendsOfMountainRoad.com) site, which explains that the banners are part of a woodcut print exhibition.

The Harwood Arts Center is a good place to begin an impromptu woodcut art tour. From there, the seven-block Mountain Road art installation extends a few blocks east of the Harwood, & then west as far as 12th St. The 13 images, created by local artists, feature detailed woodcut prints turned into banners, that are repeated along the length of the exhibition. The show was organized by artist [Julianna Kirwin](#), who works along Mountain Road; she is instrumental in helping to bring a sense of momentum to the Mountain Road corridor.

The pieces catch your eyes as you walk by, examples above & below. I love woodcuts because there's a lot going on: from a block of wood, the artist 1st carves out the negative (in this case white) space; then one method is to pull it

through a press, which allows the printed (in this case black) areas to become apparent, helping to form the image on paper. Woodcuts are intimately hand-created from beginning to end.

Walking the entire route on both sides of Mountain Road, the images provide a sense of the corridor from way back when; newer additions like coffee shops & residential infill add to the continuing vibrancy of the area.

Directly above is "Eduvijen Baca Romero," by Micaela Seidel. Below is "Singing Cowboy," by Cheryl Thorpe.



Below is "Trolley Car" by Leo Romero, & "Petrol Station" by Vicki Bolen.

[The full set can be found here.](#)



### Cool Color Combinations in the Historic Fourth Ward

Continuing toward my original destination, I passed by a different house & pulled over. A sweet couple worked with me to purchase a 100+-year-old home Downtown about a year ago, & immediately began sprucing-up & remodeling the place. It was past time to see how it turned out...

The reimagined home, above, lives among many dozens of other 100+/- year-old homes in the exceptionally unique [Fourth Ward](#) neighborhood. I love the new, crisp caramel color façade, & the horizontal splash of deep crimson creates a great scene, as if the front porch was an extension of the interior living space.

From there, turn in any direction & again, Downtown impresses--more interesting homes sporting cool color combinations line the streets for blocks. Below is a small color palette sampling from homes a short walk from [Mary Fox Park](#), in northwest Downtown.









## Historic Houses in the DNA

A green-&-yellow Bungalow, a blue-&-green Cottage, a red-trimmed Cottage, a grey Tudor-style, & a sky-blue Colonial Revival style home, all sitting within a block of Downtown's Mary Fox Park. There are many dozens of fabulous homes living Downtown.

The interesting blue & white (& red) home immediately above even has a name: it's the R.A.Kistler House at 1301 Fruit Ave NW. The name is familiar to me because of the cool Mid-Century Modern two-level former Kistler-Collister Department Store on the corner of San Mateo & Lomas Blvds.

There's a lot more to be discovered about many of the homes in the historic Fourth Ward. A fantastic guidebook called [Historic Houses in the DNA](#), from the City & MetroABQ's Downtown Neighborhood Associations (DNA), describes the origins of the many Downtown neighborhoods. There's the Fourth Ward, the Eighth Street Forrester area, the one-block Manzano Court cul-de-sac, Leon Watson Adobes on 16th & 17th Street, & features other historic homes

situated in the periphery to these neighborhoods.

From Historic Homes in the DNA: "The R.A. Kistler House (above), 1301 Fruit Avenue NW. Built in 1907, this house is an excellent example of Colonial Revival styling with its symmetrical design. At one-&-a-half stories, it sits under a gable roof with enclosed soffits & a small, lower side gable projecting from the northeast corner. R.A. Kistler, president of [Kistler/Collister](#), an important Albuquerque clothing store lived there from 1912 through the 1940's."

Below are two more showpiece named homes in proximity to Mary Fox Park. Info is from the Historic Houses in the DNA pamphlet:

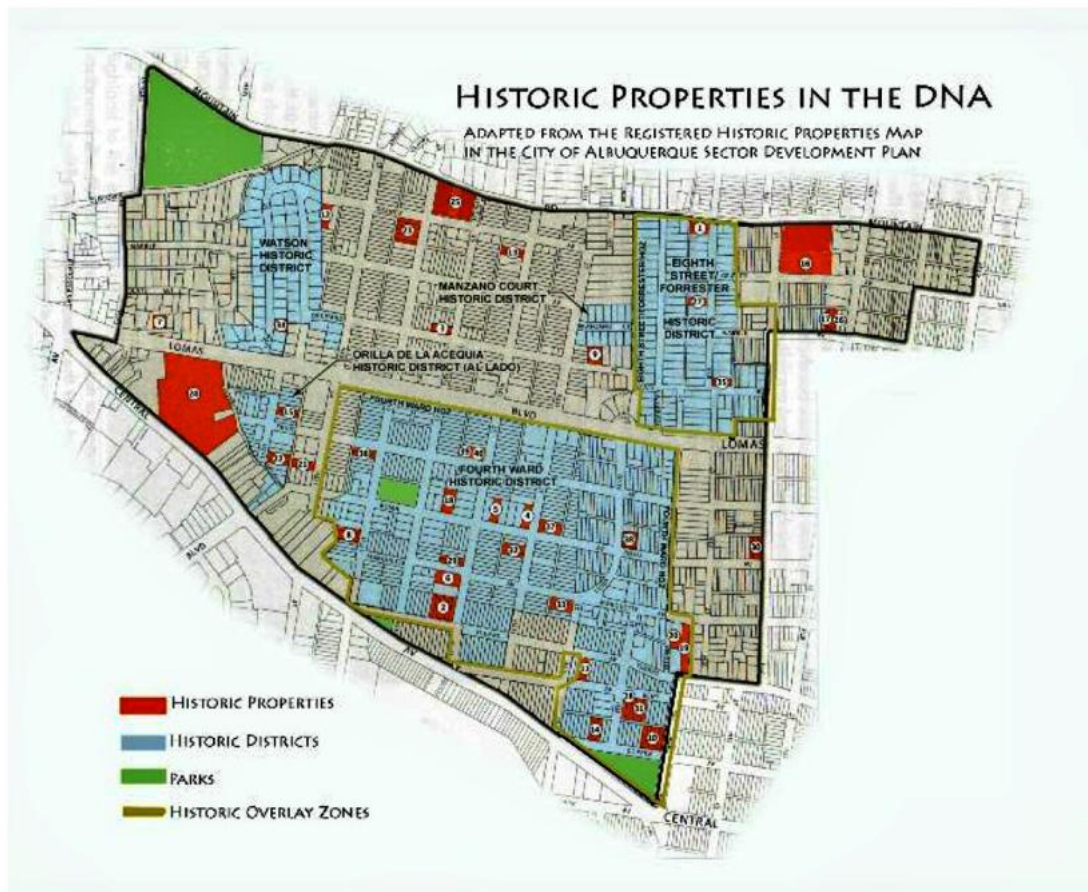
The Connor House, just below, built 1910, is a "good example of Prairie School Styling." As I am not very familiar with that design, I had to look up the [Prairie School Style](#). In line with creative color combos, the grande home sports purple fascia & beams, yellow soffits, burgundy porch trim & even what looks like aquamarine front stone steps.

Further below, the three-story Hesselden House is just west of 12th St on Roma Ave. Built in 1882, it is a semi-rare-for-NM Italianate style home, formerly a duplex. At three stories & built with impressive almost seemingly wavy red sandstone, the owners still included primary colors red, blue & (two) yellow(s), for the wood trim, brackets, gables, soffits, & other details. The more one gazes at the Hesselden House, the more details come out.

Below is the Downtown Neighborhoods Association's Historic Homes of the DNA map, which shows the historic districts mentioned above. [The booklet](#) is an invaluable MetroABQ historic homes resource.







## Architect Anna Gotshall

Finally, onward to my original Downtown destination: a small home designed in the early 1920's by architect Anna Gotshall.

Anna Gotshall is best known for designing & developing one of Downtown's premier pocket neighborhoods, the one-block [Manzano Court NW](#). Almost all the homes on the street were designed by her, & eight of them are on the National Register of Historic Places. From the Manzano Court pages in the Historic Homes in the DNA guide: "Although little specific information about Gotshall remains, the few glimpses that historical records offer concerning her & her work suggest that as one of the city's first female designers, she contributed to the changing tastes in domestic architectural style occurring in the city's early suburbs."

More than that, Gotshall helped create the unique SW Vernacular house style. Instead of adhering to one formal way a house should look, she used a mix of regional styles & local materials. Walk up & down Manzano Court & that's apparent--with great result, she comfortably mixed Mediterranean & Pueblo Revival styles.

An excellent friend, who lives on Gotshall's famous Manzano Court cul-de-sac, on the map above, located another house of hers to see. The home, in the historic

Eighth Street Forrester district, is below. The design was a simple mix of SW Vernacular: adobe-built with a tile roof over an original (perhaps enclosed) porch, alongside & surrounded by stepped parapets. A few different styles that work well together--typically Gotshall...

The deep charcoal-grey of the historic Gotshall home seemed to shimmer in the late afternoon sun. That light is just another reason to find yourself Downtown in winter...



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Unless otherwise indicated,  
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