

<Late Summer>

Two unique & historic summer flings

Hoo lives down the street...



Have you ever loved a house?

For some of us, it's easy to fall hard for a great place to live. Especially in the MetroABQ, there's an amazing number of quirky, unique, vintage, historic, classic, modern, post-modern, cookie-cutter & custom, either attached or stand-alone homes, to become infatuated with. Different & diverse, they all still provide the awesome security of owning our own space. This summer reinforced that notion, providing many lovable homes that were hard to resist. Above & below are two of them.



Location: ABQ Urban

Directly above is the front façade of one of the summer infatuations, which has thrived in the middle of Nob Hill's Monte Vista Neighborhood for 94 years. Why it's so cool: The home is considered an excellent example of Mediterranean style, contributing significantly to the interesting historic palette of the area.

Walking around the neighborhood is a treat, too, as each home is unique. The section itself is locally called the Monte Vista Triangle--what they share is that a robust number of the homes have or are now crossing over the 100-years-old mark, & many have retained a lot of their historic charm, outside & in. The [Monte Vista Triangle Walking Tour](#) is one way to get a feel for that part of Nob Hill.



A two-car garage, one bay shown above, was a rare indulgence in 1931. If you were walking around the neighborhood then, you would come across only a handful...





Great Spaces...

Above are a few more reasons why the home calls out to so many:* a bright & welcoming entry, an expanded modern kitchen, & a dining room flanked by great arches & tile.

Below are some excellent lost-in-time touches that seem to pull one in for a closer look: deco-style door hardware, a hall built-in closet system, a phone table with

phonebook pocket, & a discreet laundry shoot that lands next to the washer & dryer in the basement.

*At a recent Open House celebrating the home for sale, well over 50 folks dropped by. Many visitors were neighbors who had known of the property for decades, & many more were people visiting Nob Hill for the 1st time.



I love 3D Virtual Walking Tours. They show some of the details that photos alone can't. Included here is a [Walking Tour](#) of the Monte Vista Triangle home that was so easy to fall in love with this summer...



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Location: Westside

An historic Westside townhome complex--seen in the top image of the article--where all the units face the Albuquerque city lights & Sandia Mountain peaks, is in a rather enviable location in the Metro. Residing on 45 acres of Forever Open Space along the Rio Grande Bosque, the community of La Luz is a residential unicorn.

Once anywhere in the community, you may find yourself gazing lazily toward the cityscape through the Bosque's green ribbon in the foreground. Quick access to the Rio Grande is a rare & amazing Westside perk--living with it outside your doorstep, live & in front of you, is an even better gift.

The scene two images above is the view looking east, which features layers of horizontal color, from the bosque up to the top of the mountains; directly above is that same scene, from the window of one of the bedrooms. The home is one residence in a pod of four; below is the front entrance to the concrete, glass & brick residence for sale this summer.





Great Spaces...

What sets this historic Modernist adobe community apart is the design features. It's built with 16'' adobe walls, finished with brick floors & plate-glass windows spanned by cast-concrete lintels, plus it has wood-slat ceilings, numerous skylights & a hardwood kiva fireplace.

Access to outdoor spaces & the ability to spend time in them makes a place more lovable. Courtyards are key. The La Luz home above has a wraparound front courtyard with 270° views up & down the bosque, seen directly above with the cactus plants, & a back courtyard that opens to a magnificent greenspace with seasonal fountain, shown in the other three images, above.

Below is the fountain view from the back courtyard entrance.



Virtual Love

Sometimes a space is quirkily-interesting enough that you want to see what other experiences it might offer. Virtual Staging provides another set of creative eyes. Above is the grand living area in the La Luz unit, with the kiva, patinated brick floors & the slat ceilings.

Below is the same room, with simple virtual furnishings that provide dimension ([here's another angle](#)). I love the 3D Tours, of course, but I'm beginning to really appreciate the benefits of Virtual Staging. It shows how a house can look with a little extra love...



Hoo is your neighbor:

Coexisting with MetroABQ's urban wildlife

You never know who — or what — you're going to come across while discovering the MetroABQ. We share our outdoor urban spaces with a diverse group of neighbors of the fur & feather variety, who often have very different schedules than we have.

The portrait of a recently-expanded owl family, above, was taken by a Nob Hilleño in a lush backyard near Monte Vista Elementary. Western Screech-Owls aren't so active during daylight hours, preferring to explore the area in the dark of night, often catching mice & rodents. They are the only owls in New Mexico that can live comfortably in urban areas--like these [little owlets](#). Luckily for the photoshoot, the photographer & the owl family's schedules overlapped...

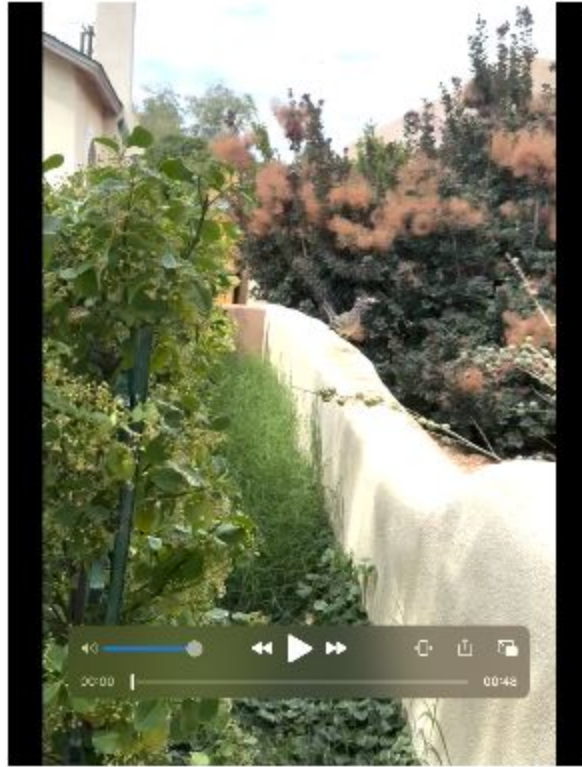
Below is another MetroABQ Screech-Owl, living Downtown in the historic [Leon Watson Abobe neighborhood](#) near Tiguex Park.



We rarely see these wild critters that coexist around us, & usually there is little to nothing to fear from them. Some are even beneficial: while skunks may create an 'unpleasant nasal reaction,' they consume insects, rodents, & other pests that can be harmful to gardens, crops, & our health. The wild denizens discreetly go about their natural ways & we all seem to get along, for the most part.

Some creatures even thrive here, though often at a cost. A roadrunner I knew, below, who living along Route 66 (no, [not that one](#)), was fed mealworms until it became semi-domestic, showing up daily at the same time for a mealworm meal. When the owner moved & no longer fed it, the bird hung around the property for months, waiting for food; then it stopped showing up. Interfering with one of the bird's connections to nature seems unnatural.





41 seconds in the day & a life of a Silver Hills roadrunner...

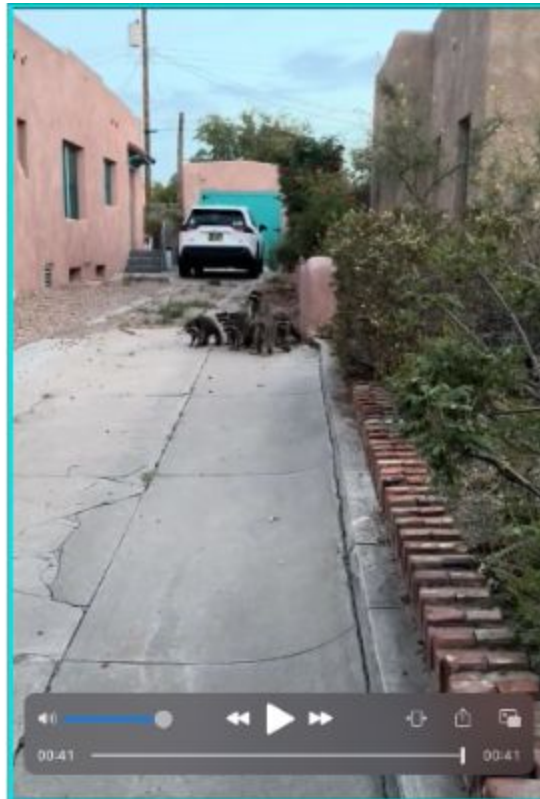


This highly-educated roadrunner finds safety under the eaves at a building near the [Duck Pond](#), on the UNM Campus, above. For a 2nd year, it's been spotted just at dusk during the colder months, settling in for

the night. Benefits: the perch faces south, so the low-arc winter sun exposure against the building probably provides extra warmth (see: [Trombe Walls](#)), & she's also up against the window, which may provide more warmth. Also, where she sits, it's next to impossible for most predators to get to her without her fore-knowledge...



Above is a family of raccoons crossing Roma Blvd east of the University, with the Monte Vista corner park in the background. The image was taken by longtime Nob Hilleño Jeff Gittelman. The furry family is migrating to another section of their Nob Hill neighborhood range in the early morning. There are six raccoons in the image, two of which are trotting in tandem below the stop sign. Welcome them (from afar) if you see them...



Forty-one seconds in the lives of six exploring raccoons.

What if the relationship with our wild neighbors isn't symbiotic? Recently, some Nob Hill raccoons moved in under a back porch, & a family with small children was concerned about spending time in their backyard. As raccoons are a species of furbearers protected in New Mexico, along with foxes, they should only be removed humanely, which can involve several options.

NM Dept of Game & Fish is a good 1st stop--definitely call, because the website is not helpful. They will direct you to the government agency or local business that can help. For the most part, you may need to hire a commercial company like Pro Wildlife Removal, or Critter Control, both of which use humane techniques to remove & relocate your intrusive furry neighbors.

Who else might be living among us in the MetroABQ? Coyotes, squirrels, chipmunks, skunks, rabbits, deer, raccoons, foxes, urban dogs, bears, mountain lions, bats & many bird species, the more obvious being Mourning Doves, Pigeons, Robins, Woodpeckers, Curved-bill Thrashers, Roadrunners, Sharp-shinned hawks & Cooper's hawks.

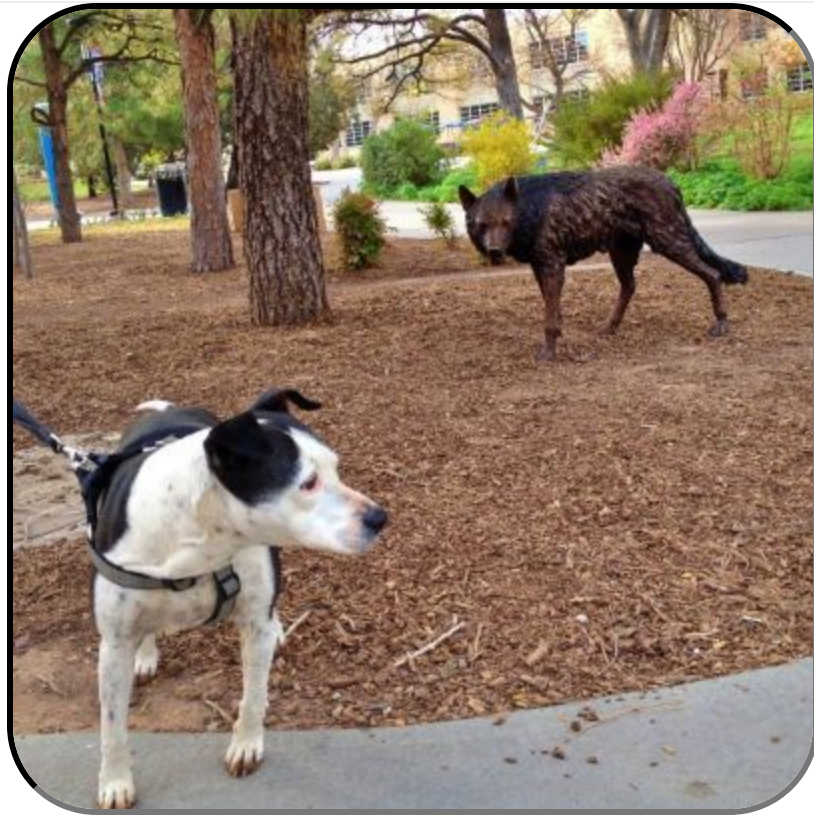


Shoulda taken that left turn... Rabbits flourish throughout the city; they are seen in every quadrant & in places [one might not expect](#). There is an area on the UNM campus where 17 have been spotted at one time. They are so prevalent, it was easy to find & photo two bunnies, above, one near each of the homes described--Westside Bosque & Nob Hill--in the 1st article above.

A bunny's gotta hop... This year, one [North Valley bunny](#) moved out of the MetroABQ, much to the chagrin of the owners, [Ed & Barbara](#). They bid adieu to their friend (& perhaps muse) of almost 20 years, as *Early Morning Walk*, below, has now found a [new forever home](#), in quirky Salida, Colorado. When next you're there, check out the bunny-walking-a-dog sculpture--it's an excellent Albuquerque (not so) wild animal connection, far from home...



The *Early Morning Walk* (in Salida) image above was taken by the artist, Ed Haddaway, who truly loves bunnies.



Scholes Lobo. Speaking of the University of NM, wildlife sightings regularly abound on all campuses; don't be surprised if while walking your pooch, you come across something entirely unexpected (but harmless)...

Thx for reading.



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