

Cuatro Alamos – Never to be Finished

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Folks often ask about our New Mexico residence ([Cuatro Alamos](#)) and I've never put anything about it on Facebook. We've lived there every summer for about the last 20 years, so I guess it's about time to post it (3/13/2015). I never give its specific location, except to especially invited guests. And even then, it's so well hidden (I used to get lost in the early years), that they have to meet us in [Cuba](#), New Mexico and follow us up to find it.

Cuatro Alamos is a very "[GREEN](#)", [Off the Grid](#) (no bills), [Solar](#) house. Its water is supplied by an, icy cold, spring and backup, rain/snow [water harvesting system](#). A [passive solar](#) structure, it heats and cools itself. [Photovoltaic panels](#) provide its electricity. A [garden](#) and small [greenhouse](#) provide veggies and fruit.

I did 90% of the structural construction and technology
(solar/electrical/plumbing/rainwater harvesting etc.)

myself.....with a [little help from my friends.](#)



Masako and, until we recently lost her ([our dear friend](#)) Kazumi, did the cosmetics (tile, painting, stucco etc.).....



With a little help from our friends.



Aaron & Zandy

We built it for two reasons:

First, I've had two heat strokes and, many years ago, my VA doctors told me that if I have another one, it will kill me immediately. So, when it's 110° in Texas, at 9000 feet,

we have a fire in the fireplace every night.



Second, in the autumn of our lives, we wanted a place for our friends to come and play. They bring their golf clubs, fishing tackle, archery/target practice (no assault weapons allowed), musical instruments, dogs, hobbies, hiking/camping gear, silly hats etc., and everybody plays.



Kazumi & Richard - Golf

Most days the atmosphere is party.



A couple days a week, neighbors show up and the party swells to full house and spills over into the yard. We chose our location for its proximity to Texas and [hot springs](#).

On arrival, we are greeted by a wonderful array of mountain [wildflowers](#) (many exotic and some endangered) and our yard changes color several times throughout the season. These are [mountain irises](#) along our driveway, and they will be replaced by a rainbow of succeeding species.....red, yellow, purple, white, blue, orange etc.



The grandson of farmer/soldiers, I always have a garden where I live.



Working on underground irrigation for Corn.

And many in our little mountain community neighbors (in the party pictures) are ex/retired military.



Larry Padgett, Retired USAF pilot (Major). Note military hat.

Having grown up on [Bachman Creek/Lake](#), when it was still mostly out in the country (woods/farmland), I always have a pond where I live and this is the beginning of this one.



Cosmetic Design: My family (especially mother) and most friends still alive then, I became an adult and lived the best years of my youth in Europe - mostly Spain. So the interior of the house is [Andalucían](#). The exterior is meant to simulate the traditional, [adobe/territorial](#) style of New Mexico. White inside; Brown outside. It's Off the Grid because I don't like utility bills.

The point of all this being, that when folks ask me if the New Mexico place is finished, I must, for as long as I live, say **NO!** it's not something to finish; it's something to do with what's left of our lives.

