

# What's Old Is New

## Guided Looking Activity

Use these prompts to guide your experience in this exhibition. You can use them alone or with a friend, family member, or even a stranger nearby. You can jot down answers, or just discuss them out loud.

There are three paintings of buildings in this exhibition. After finding and looking at them all, can you list some similarities between the three buildings (i.e. what is the same or almost the same in each painting)?

What do you see that is different in these three buildings/paintings?

Do you recognize any of these buildings?

When you have read the labels for these paintings, you will know that one of the buildings depicted is the building you are standing in--the New Mexico Museum of Art. One of the other paintings shows the building created to represent New Mexico at the Panama-California Exposition in San Diego in 1915, which was later used as the design for the museum. The last image is of Acoma Pueblo, which is credited as the inspiration for both the New Mexico building and the Museum.



Do you believe the New Mexico Museum of Art's building reflects the character or aesthetic (how something looks) of New Mexico? Why or why not?



What kind of building would you design to represent the New Mexico of today? Make a drawing or write a description below.



TOP TO BOTTOM:

**Carlos Vierra**, American, 1876-1937, *Acoma*, 1920, Oil on canvas  
Gift of the Honorable Frank Springer and Carlos Vierra, before 1925. Museum number 295.23P

**Charles S. Rawles**, American 1863-1932, *New Mexico Building, San Diego*, ca. 1915, Watercolor on paper.  
Museum acquisition, before 1965. Museum number 1832.23P

**Kenneth Chapman**, American, 1875-1968, *New Art Museum, Santa Fe-South Front*, 1916, Watercolor on paper.  
Museum acquisition, before 1918. Museum number 1833A.23D



## An Introduction to Pueblo Revival Architecture

Pueblo Revival, sometimes referred to as Pueblo Spanish Revival or even Santa Fe Style architecture, helped define the visual character of Santa Fe and New Mexico starting in the early twentieth century. The New Mexico Museum of Art's 1917 historic plaza building, designed by Isaac Hamilton Rapp, is often cited as the building that helped to define the style. The style draws inspiration from traditional Pueblo construction as well as Spanish influences. In particular, the style pulls heavily from the design of Spanish mission churches built on Pueblos in the region. The mission church at Acoma Pueblo is regularly noted as the greatest influence for the museum's building.

### Interior Features

**Vigas** - Large wooden beams used to support a flat roof in traditional adobe construction are called *vigas*. In modern Pueblo Revival architecture, vigas may be decorative or functional. Vigas are stripped logs such as those in the Beauregard Gallery or beams, such as those found in the Women's Board Room. The projection of vigas through the exterior wall of a building is a common trait of Pueblo Revival architecture. The vigas in the auditorium came from California, and it was hoped that time curing in salt air would help to preserve the wood.

**Latillas** - Formed by using either strips of woods or peeled branches, *latillas* can be found resting on top of vigas and form the foundation of a roof. Wooden strip or plank latillas can be found in the upstairs galleries and our lobby, while examples of latillas made from branches can be seen in our courtyard or Saint Francis Auditorium.

**Corbels** - *Corbels* are support structures for vigas that extend from the walls. They are often carved and serve both a functional and decorative role.

### Exterior Features

After seeing an example of Pueblo Revival architecture like the New Mexico Museum of Art, recognizing other buildings constructed in the same style may feel easy, but what are some of the defining characteristics?

Pueblo Revival walls borrow the look and feel of traditional adobe construction. Adobe is made from a mix of earth and organic materials, such as straw. There are many ways to build with adobe, but construction that uses sun dried adobe bricks and a mortar and plaster made from the same earthen mix (minus the straw) is the method usually employed in Pueblo Revival. These walls have rounded corners and often use an earth-colored stucco finish to mimic the plaster finish of adobe walls. The walls tend to slope inwards towards the top and extend beyond the roofline to form irregular parapets. The roofs of Pueblo Revival buildings are flat and frequently stepped, giving a building the appearance of being formed from various sized blocks that have been placed next to one another.