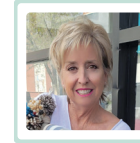


WHERE YOU LIVE, WORK & PLAY

SPACES

Stop and smell the roses

WRITTEN BY TANOAN RESIDENT PATTI HARRELL HOECH
LICENSED INTERIOR DESIGNER



Summer's flowering inspiration can become a year-round enjoyment inside your home. Many of you are probably avid gardeners. From the appearance of many beautiful yards around Tanoan exploding with flowers this spring and into the summer, it is a seasonal sign that we all crave and enjoy after the dormancy of winter. The peak of summer has us enjoying the outdoors, living in our exterior spaces and taking great pleasure in the brilliant greens and splashes of color that are all around us.

Floribunda! From the garden, cut and brought inside for bouquets and centerpieces, to floral fabrics inside and out, flowers offer a happy connection to nature and brighten our world. They need not be fragrant – but lovely scents are a bonus!

I've seen a few flowering ponds recently – blanketed in the large round verdant green of lily pads floating on glistening water and sprouting magnificent pink water lilies. They combine the refreshing element of water – a rare commodity in our climate – with the beauty of little explosions of perfection and color.

Many local artists create wonderful renditions in a variety of media capturing flowers in clay, metal and wood sculpture, glass assemblages, watercolor, acrylic and oil paintings. Fabrics from all over the world depict floral studies of color and detail.

I have had the privilege of being surrounded by art every day. Working with many talented artists, in these past 4 decades of design, fills me with inspiration, appreciation and tremendous pleasure. I hope to continue to encourage, incorporate, and enjoy the beauty of all manner of art and for this specific subject – the beauty of flowers – with my friends and clients.

Although floral design features might tend to lean into a more feminine stereotype, flowers are universal and their appeal is like anything else. Find what attracts you, draws you in, and pleases your eye. Color, subject matter, composition, detail, etc. all contribute to the beauty of a bouquet, or art piece replicating the floral motif in all manner of design.

With a camera in our pockets, we have instant access to capturing the detail, color, and effect flowers have on our senses. Whether a single translucent petal, a dew drop



Summer patio rooms exponentially expand our living spaces – here, flowers abound on fabrics, rugs, pillows, and the rose garden beyond.



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glistening in the sunlight on a blossom, or fields of flowers that brush broad swaths of color on the landscape – I am constantly drawn to and zoom in on flowers. Upon closer inspection, focusing on the intricate anatomy and specifically the reproductive parts of a flower's center, is similar to experiencing the perfection and intricacy of a snowflake. Such perfection defies description – it is an awe-inspiring statement of nature.

Here is an exercise for you. As you navigate this summer and all its floral riches, look at settings of flowers – gardens and even broader landscapes, flowering trees and shrubs to single stems, clusters of colors and enjoy the adventure of these



Federico Leon de la Vega's oil on canvas of a bouquet of white roses commands the space in this white-on-white living room.

beautiful seasonal experiences. Take photos – wide angles or up close and personal. If you find one that particularly speaks to you, have it printed and framed. Yes, it can become a piece of art that you created by capturing the moment on your camera and having the insight and inspiration to want to see it in your home or office because it evokes a fond memory, pleasant image, comforting color, dazzling detail – whatever brings you joy. It can be a weed on the side of the road or a cultivated specimen from a botanical garden – or your own backyard, they are each powerfully beautiful and worth capturing for extended enjoyment. I would love to hear from you about your experiences and photos.



A giclee on metal by Meg Munro and an original canvas by Alane Foug contribute to an eclectic collection on open shelves.

On a similar note, explore the outdoor art markets, visit a few local galleries – stroll in out of the heat and enjoy a relaxing adventure into the world of interpretation and fine craft. Also venture forth into nature at our city rose gardens, spectacular Botanical Garden at the Bio Park, and even nurseries! And keep your camera at the ready!

Love art, flowers, nature, color, design, and realize how essentially it all influences you. You just might be amazed, if you take the time to Stop and Smell the Roses!

Feature image: Internationally recognized watercolor master, Meg Munro, has retired to Albuquerque and presents intricately detailed paintings. Here, "Singularly Present" (15" x 20" image size, custom framed & matted 23" x 27"; \$1,700)



Leon de la Vega was commissioned to create the Yellow Rose of Texas bouquet for this Dallas residence.



Our theme for Eye Associates of New Mexico features succulent floral photographs by local artists throughout the clinic.

Your Neighbor,

Patti Harrell Hoech
Licensed Interior Designer



To ask Patti a question please scan the QR code!



"Focus on a Rose" is a client's own photograph – perfect for their powder room.

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