

MetroABQ Real Estate Newsletter



Including Rio Rancho, Corrales, Placitas, Atrisco Valley, Los Lunas & the East Mountains.

::Late Summer::

[Beyond the MetroABQ: Angel Fire's Architectural Art](#)
[Lush North Valley Trail: The Griegos Drain Walking Tour](#)
[Fabulous North Valley Socially-Distant Saturday Open House](#)



Soaring Architecture in Angel Fire, New Mexico

Living in this state, we are always ready to discover something amazing; an [out-of-the way New Mexico place](#) that sticks with you long after you leave it is often around the corner. Meeting clients in Angel Fire to preview some nice homes, I noticed a large, shapely white pyramid sitting on a hill, overlooking the small town. After the showings I had to stop by.

The [Vietnam Veterans Memorial](#) in Angel Fire is one of the first memorials dedicated to Vietnam Veterans. Featuring the Peace & Brotherhood Chapel, seen above, the memorial was built in the early 1970's & commands a significant presence from the hilltop. A small glimpse of some of the [Angel Fire Resort](#) neighborhoods can be seen in the background; the ski resort is off to the right.

The organic, undulating style of the monument is what draws the eye from miles away. It started out as a memorial for a soldier who died in combat during the war, but has [evolved to much more](#): to minimize the impact on the surrounding landscape & Chapel, a mostly underground visitor's center & museum was carved into the hill, & in 2007 an amphitheater was added, discreet from the valley view. And recently a State Veterans Cemetery was added next to the site, allowing for rural veterans to be honored closer to home.

Below are more images of the Peace & Brotherhood Chapel, taken by Rob Thalmann.





The magnificent image above in Angel Fire reminds me of the old [Paolo Soleri Amphitheater](#) in Santa Fe, a fabulous neo-expressionist structure built by the eponymous-named Italian architect; the B&W image below is from the website. The unique design always reminded me of white dinosaur bones half buried in the sand, just as the Angel Fire Chapel feels like a marble pyramid was tossed onto it's side. Similar architectural elements are shared by both amphitheaters, like the organic soaring arches & bleached bone-white desert façade, both of which shimmer from different angles on their respective hillsides.

From [Wiki](#): *The (Paolo Soleri) concrete structure was created using Soleri's methods of earth-forming to create a type of desert-scape. The venue's wing-like, organic shapes emerge from a bowl-shaped depression in the high desert floor. Soleri's design was influenced by Native American themes...A "[Save the Soleri Amphitheatre](#)" initiative on the part of Santa Fe Indian School alumni has inspired a movement to preserve the unique building.*

The Paolo Soleri amphitheater has been closed for almost ten years. It had been slated for demolition but the two NM Senators stepped in to temporarily save the structure...For now it sits empty, the gigantic old grey dinosaur bones still sticking out of the desert landscape.

The second image below is another interesting soaring concave arch from the Angel Fire Memorial. [More images can be found here.](#)

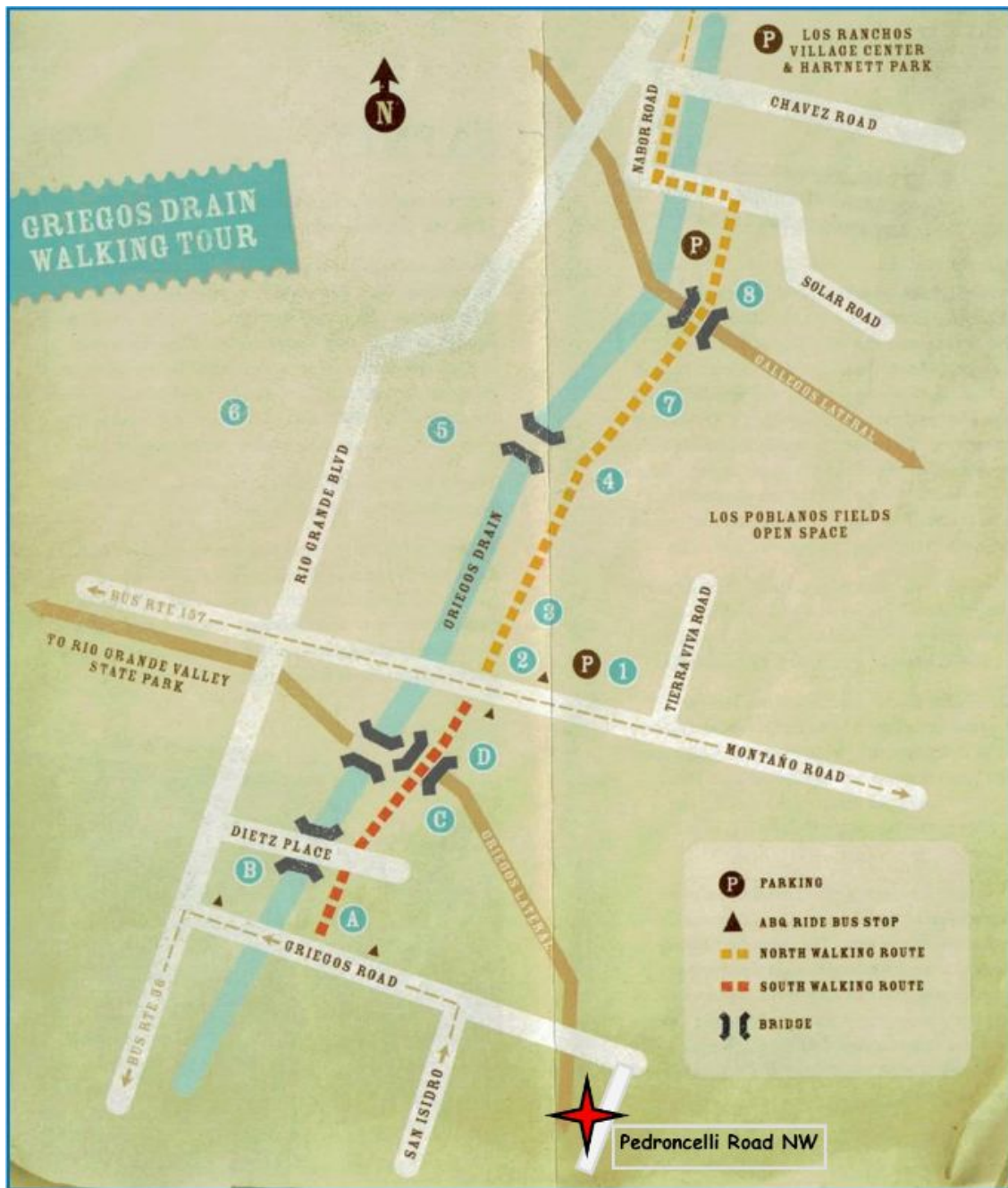




The Angel Fire Memorial also shares numerous features with a stunning [Expressionist-style Mid-Century Modern](#) work of architectural art, that sits a bit closer to home. The famous Flatow & Moore designed St. Paul's Episcopal Church building, above, has been standing sentry smack in the middle of the MetroABQ for fifty years, at Indian School Road & University Blvd. If you like brick as a dramatic building material, the church's [brick expressionism](#) design, both [inside](#) & [out](#), will make you happy. Another image below.

What these three New Mexico sites also have in common is their age: they were all built right around the turn of the 1970's, when the sleek expressionist architectural Mid-Century style was winding down. Envisioned for different reasons, & miles apart across Northern New Mexico, these landmarks further the idea of architecture as works of art...another reason to love this place.





North Valley Along the Griegos Drain

During the hotter months, the [North Valley](#) is a great place to spend some time. The tall mature Cottonwood & Elm trees provide a cool shaded canopy in most places, & the [Rio Grande's numerous side-stream acequias](#) snaking up & down the Valley create miles of walking, bike & horse trails.

A path I recently discovered, starting for me along Griegos Road near Rio Grande Blvd, is actually the Griegos Drain Walking Tour, which takes you to wonderful places in the North Valley not seen from a car. I tracked down a brochure for the walking tour & it's beautifully written, too, with a dozen points of interest along the way.

An excerpt: *A walk along the Griegos Drain offers a semi-rural experience in the heart of a major city, traversing layers of geologic & human history. And: Walking northward will reward you with views of open farmland & the grand vistas of the Sandia Mountains to the east & Albuquerque's five extinct volcanoes to the west.*

Full [Griegos Drain Walking Tour Brochure](#).

It's a great local walk. The trail passes the border of many properties that live along the acequias, so you can't help getting sneak-peaks of some (private) lush & expensive [Los Ranchos de Albuquerque backyard](#) spaces, the two images below. You also might be surprised at the other cool things you see along the way.



Above, turning a corner, it was surprising to see the photovoltaic solar array sitting on the edge of a field along the Griegos Lateral trail. To optimize the energy energy, the panels were set up nicely away from the tall trees.

There are acequia turn-outs along the way, below, but fewer than you might [find in Corrales](#) just upstream, which is mostly rural agricultural. Along the trail there are so many bird sounds that it feels like you are in a dense wood instead of surrounded by almost a million people. Ducks were loving the fast-moving waterways, too, below.





The Griegos Drain Trail walks from Griegos Road all the way up to Chavez Road in the heart of Los Ranchos. Along the way the Griegos Drain crosses the Griegos Lateral at the pedestrian bridge, above. The Griegos Lateral trail, which starts along Pedroncelli Road, winds northwest & deposits you on Rio Grande Blvd at the Los Ranchos southern border. I walked the length of the east-west Griegos Lateral trail to Rio Grande, then back to behind the Unser Museum, below.





There are numerous sights to take in as you head along the trails. For a quick detour to a cafe for beverages, there's Dietz Plaza, which is also a collection of unusual shops including a bookstore. Back on the trail you will see a vineyard,

acres of designated Open Space, a community farm, a metal horse sculpture & real horses, & more. The seasonal Maize Maze is just off the trail & is sponsored by the Rio Grande Community Farms & Los Poblanos Inn & Farm, which is a short walk from the trail. While there, check out the John Gaw Meem-designed reception hall.

Above is one of several peacocks that live in & around the Los Poblanos Inn & Farm, which is a short walk from the Griegos Drail Trail. Below is one of the lavender fields, then the farm silos outside the restaurant, accomodations & planted fields.

Finally, at near the north end of the trail, off another trail called the Gallegos Lateral, there is a Little Free Library in front of the Alvarado Elementary School. If you have a small paperback with you to exchange, that is a good place to do so. Little Free Libraries are everywhere...





Open House: Welcome to the North Valley!

(Socially-Distant) Open House this Saturday August 1st, from 1-3pm.

[4605 Pedroncelli Road NW](#) sits on a quiet North Valley cul-de-sac, above, steps from the southern border of the Griegos Lateral Trail. Easy to find: on the map above, the

home is in the lower right-hand side, identified by a red star.

Respecting current health orders, please wear a mask, which will also be provided at the door, along with hand sanitizer as you wish.

About 4605 Pedroncelli Road NW:

See the 3-D Tour! Sweet & spacious North Valley adobe home on quiet cul-de-sac in historic Los Griegos neighborhood. Enter into the private, lush front courtyard, with shaded east-facing porch. Inside, there's much to love: living room features dramatic stone fireplace & marvelous arched entry leading to 2nd living area. The large & gracious formal dining room + open kitchen floorplan create seamless flow between areas--perfect for large gatherings or intimate affairs. Primary Bedroom has HUGE walk-in & laundry room. Hardwood floors & T&G ceilings in several rooms + cool barn door sliders adorn both bathrooms. Relax under the shaded back patio, surrounded by mature trees & wonderful landscaped greenspace. Adjacent to Griegos Lateral Bike Trail! Come see!

[Click](#) on the image below to see the [3-D Virtual Walking Tour](#).

[The property flyer is here.](#)

Below the 3-D Tour are more photos.

Call me at 505.463.5317 for questions or for a private showing. Thx!







Unless otherwise indicated, all other photos by Chris Lucas.

www.ChrisLucasABQ.com

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I love talking about real estate...

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My 3-D Virtual Tours



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