

#### March

## The Monte Vista Triangle One-Mile Walking Tour

A 3-D Virtual Tour in Netherwood Park

# Monte Vista Triangle One-Mile Walking Tour Lomas Blvd NE 7 ( 6 A (18) 14 entral Ave NE Central Ave SE Central Ave SE

Spring has begun. Learning about & experiencing architecture is always on the top of my list of things to do. Two local architectural walks are below:

An excellent architectural/historic walking tour I just found is the <u>MetroABQ</u> <u>Downtown Plaza to Plaza Walk</u>, from Downtown to Old Town.

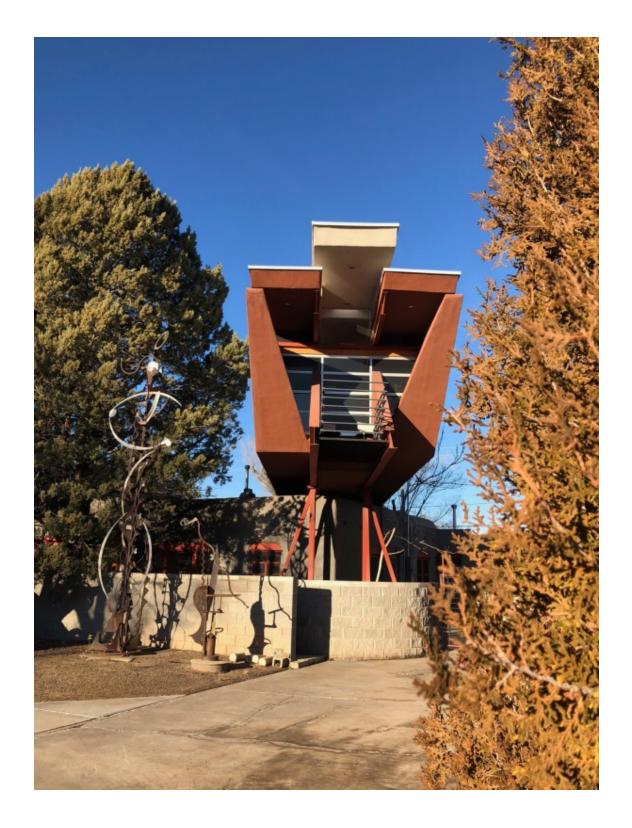
I created another architectural walking tour...Exploring the buildings of the Nob Hill Neighborhoods is a great walk, specifically the <u>Monte Vista Triangle</u>, a pizza-shaped slice in the historic Monte Vista Addition. Below is my one-mile architectural walking tour that celebrates the numerous unique building styles in that area. Anchored by Monte Vista Elementary School, one of the best examples of Mediterranean Revival architecture in the city, the neighborhood surrounding the school boasts a significantly large number of homes from the 1920's--1950's & beyond. The <u>Monte Vista Triangle Walking Tour</u>, seen above, zigs & zags through the pocket Monte Vista Triangle section, passing by a few gems, among many.







I always love seeing these <u>public art</u> fractal creations on the Monte Vista Elementary School. They are imagined by students aged six on up, & rotate regularly, so the neighborhood is always a treat to visit. Not so coincidentally, the worldwide <u>Fractal Foundation</u> is located in the neighborhood. The foundation has a <u>fractal presence</u> throughout the Metro & taught me to see <u>fractals everywhere!</u> The Monte Vista Elementary School is a prominent character in the walking tour...





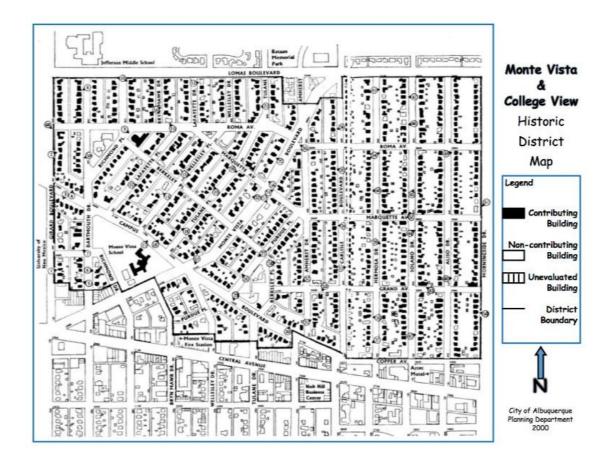
Above & Below: renowned Architect & UNM Professor Bart Prince grew up in the MetroABQ & is noted to have <u>Antoni Gaudí</u> as his inspiration. Prince's three fabulous Post-Modern contributions to the Monte Vista Triangle remind me a little of Gaudí: architectural residences that are diverse, organic & whimsical, all seeming to exist in their own space & time. The image two above is his studio, built into & upon a Pueblo Revival home in 2006; directly above is the same building, as seen from the second floor of the neighboring house, a Medieval-style home, also on the walking tour. Below is Prince's quirky residence, often called the Spaceship House, next door to the his studio. Further below & also on Monte Vista Blvd, is a Prince-designed house I think of as the Jor-El House.





triangle boasts numerous distinctive & influential regionalist styles, prominent in the MetroABQ from the 1920's to the 1950's. As the Nob Hill Neighborhoods are ever evolving, the tour also includes some modern post-war architectural creations, seen above. Differing styles include Medieval/Cottage Style, Territorial, Mediterranean, Spanish Pueblo Revival, SW Vernacular, Mid-Century Modern, Post-Modern, Modernist Pueblo, Ranch style, & a mix of various hybrid styles I call Mediterranean Vernacular.

Just below is the map of both historic Nob Hill Neighborhoods, Monte Vista & College View. The Monte Vista Triangle is in the middle of the map. The tour features only a few examples of the wonderful abundance of architectural styles found in the neighborhood. More architectural gems can be found throughout the rest of the Monte Vista & College View Neighborhoods. Below that are a few more from the Triangle: a brick Mediterranean-style home with great Palladian front window, & a fabulous Mid-Century Modern showpiece home.









### Close by, in the Netherwood Park area, is another Walking Tour & a Virtual Walking Tour.

Seeing a place virtually instead of materially can be hugely beneficial at times. Museums, galleries & even US National Parks are creating online viewing rooms to <u>exhibit art</u> & <u>outdoor spaces</u>. Here is a <u>great one</u>, & <u>here too</u>.

These days, there are smart & far-reaching technological ways to view homes, too, from the comfort of your own home. 3-D Virtual Tours allow you to walk with your eyes through a home, exploring it before seeing it in person. Below is the Dollhouse image of one of those <u>3-D Tours</u>, found in Netherwood Park, the physical walking tour map is above.





The walk from park to park to park is pretty cool, & takes you through some nicely diverse terrain. To start, the elevated 120 acre UNM Golf Course has a trail, 'G' on the map & above, that wends around the 18-hole course, with stunning West Mesa views on one side & the Sandia Mountain chain on the other. The walk through the <a href="Vista Larga Neighborhood">Vista Larga Neighborhood</a> takes you past larger homes ranging from \$350,000-\$750,000 & up.

Crossing Indian School Blvd brings you into the west end of Netherwood Park, with homes built in the 1950's & 1960's, including many Mid-Century Modern & Split-Level

Ranch home styles. Larger & more expensive homes in this section are generally located around the showpiece: the 5.2 acre Netherwood Park, 'N' on the map, with undulating hills & gorgeous views from the top of the hill. During the warmer months, the park hosts <u>Wednesday's Bite</u>, the weekly entertainment-oriented dinnertime Food Trucks-on-the-park gathering of neighbors & everyone else in the know.

Below is an active day at Netherwood Park, with a family playing Frisbee & the mountains as backdrop.





The neighborhoods provide some other interesting scenes...Just above is an art installation (with reclining chair) along an open space walking trail that ultimately connects to the 400+ mile <a href="MetroABQ Bike & Walking Trail">MetroABQ Bike & Walking Trail</a> system. I imagine the guitar, below, has to be weeded in the summer...





There are a large number of nicely well-kept townhomes throughout the area, mostly in the middle of the two neighborhoods north the <u>Tennis Club of Albuquerque</u>. Above is one townhome example, which is currently for sale.

Below is <u>1907 Richmond Dr NE</u>, an exceptional brick Mid-Mod one-story single-family residence, also for sale in the neighborhood. It sits in the middle of the Netherwood to Miracerros Park Walk, up a small knoll just north of Cutler Ave. The home, <u>listed here</u>, with a great <u>3-D Virtual Walking Tour</u>, is equidistant from the two parks, perfect for exploring. Come see!





The final leg of the walk is to the Urban Forest (Miracerros) Park, a 5.3 acre horizontal park that stretches along I-40 from Carlisle Blvd. Dense with trees & anchored by a large complex of numerous two-story Casita apartments, the Urban

Forest Park really is a small forest, surrounded by 900,000 people. It's a MetroABQ greenspace barely on maps & little known, yet sitting in the middle of the city.

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Unless otherwise indicated, all photos by Chris Lucas.



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I continually seek out the hidden gems in all areas for my **Buyers**, & I am a tireless promoter for all of my **Sellers'** listings.

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My 3-D Virtual Tours





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