Three fundamental components drove our design approach:

- Climate
- Community
- Culture

In responding to the needs of each of these components, we sought to generate a design that was locally and regionally responsive and one that would be replicable within the community of Guadalupe, Arizona, and the region.
1. Long east-west axis minimizes western exposure.
2. Shade trellises are designed to protect from summer sun while allowing winter solar gain.
3. Navajo FlexCrete walls with thermal mass help store energy.
4. A cool roof with MirrorSeal reflects heat.
5. Xeriscaping reduces water usage.
6. Solar power provides 30-50% of the home’s electric needs.
7. Rainwater provides all gardening water.
8. Concrete floors provide additional mass for thermal storage.
9. Courtyard facilitates natural cross-ventilation.
The Community

Guadalupe is a Yaqui and Latino town with a rich cultural heritage adjacent to Tempe and Phoenix, Arizona. It is the poorest non-reservation community in the state.

1. The house was designed to accommodate varying lot sizes in the community of Guadalupe.

2. The design considered these many potential infill lots in Guadalupe.

3. This is the homeowner’s lot with its existing dilapidated owner-built home.

4. Community workshops were held to gather input from residents of Guadalupe, including the homeowner and potential homeowners.
The Culture

1. Courtyards allow for the large family gatherings common to traditional Latino communities.
2. Second floor terrace was designed to accommodate a second floor apartment, allowing an addition to the house over time.
3. Full and bright colors reflect the homeowner’s Latino culture and were selected by the homeowners.
4. The “Casita” provides space for an accessory dwelling unit, a rental unit, or household guests.
5. Combined kitchen, dining and living spaces accommodate large family gatherings and place the kitchen at the center of social activity.
6. Parlor space, with a front window, provides opportunity for homeowner to accommodate a home-based business.
7. Alcove provides place of honor for the Virgin of Guadalupe at the entryway to the home.