

Perfect Partners

Sun Mountain Construction, Inc. is committed to sustainability, which makes an impact on industry partners

By Heather Shoning Photography by Mark William

Danielle and Michael Schlichte—an appraiser and real estate agent, respectively—have flipped about 300 homes in their career. But when it came time to build what they call their legacy home, they knew they'd need to turn the task over to a custom home builder, and they chose Sun Mountain Construction, Inc., and specifically owner Norm Schreifels.



The couple envisioned a home designed with health and wellness in mind. They longed to capture the relaxing, rejuvenating environment of a spa in their home, and they did it by incorporating a dry sauna, hot tub, cold plunge and a pool. “We’re addicted to that feeling of the spa experience,” Danielle says, “of destressing, unwinding, connecting.” Sun Mountain’s commitment to green building and creating healthy homes was a no-brainer. “Norm’s product is very, very green, and that’s just how he builds everything,” Danielle says. “It’s already part of his system.”

Sometimes Schreifels is questioned about how a large home with a pool could possibly be green. The answer is simple: You have to assess the overall package. With proper consideration given to all of the ways to make a home efficient, there are ways to offset aspects such as square footage and water use. “Somebody is going to build this house, so it might as well be a guy like me that can make it as efficient as possible,” Schreifels says.

He prioritizes his business relationships with

subcontractors who embrace green building to the extent that he does, and in many cases, he leads them in that direction. “We train them as we go, teaching them our practices onsite,” he says. “We make sure they know what we expect. They also need to have a good reputation and be dependable, ethical, flexible. We all work together as a big team.”

Oddly enough, as an 18-year-old, Michael worked for a painter who happened to be a subcontractor for Sun Mountain. “Norm was one of the first builders I met as a young person,” Michael says, adding that Schreifels made an impact on him with the way he held his subcontractors accountable and ran a tight construction ship.

“Danielle reads *Su Casa*,” Michael says. “She’d occasionally mention seeing one of Norm’s houses in the magazine.” She says she can easily pick them out—especially in Corrales—when she’s out appraising homes. Ultimately, Schreifels’ prestigious reputation in the community, attention to detail, and the fact that they trusted he could build a healthy, green home for their





wellness-focused lifestyle sealed the deal.

Sun Mountain remains miles ahead of the curve when it comes to building healthy homes and pushing building efficiency to its highest level. “We try to make green building a no-brainer for the homeowner,” Schreifels says. “When we leave the house, it operates itself, and energy bills are much cheaper.”

The Schlichtes couldn’t be more impressed. “The end result speaks for itself,” Michael says. “Norm is driving his people to a high standard, which is what we hired him for.”

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