

Here's A House Designed For The Furniture

By MARY GERDAN

Even the cats are comfortable in Josef von Isser's new two-room burnt adobe house. And their comfort is important to this spritely, 70-year old gentleman. They've been a part of his family for some 17 years.

Von Isser, who speaks with a slight Viennese accent, has lived all over Europe and in North Africa. His home originally was Austria, which influenced a rather "recent" hobby—cooking. Guests who drop in to see him are delighted when he serves Viennese coffee—topped with heaping spoonful of whipped cream. His luncheon and dinner menus, too, show his Austrian heritage.

Mrs. Barry Hughart designed the house for him after making an intense study of his personality, tastes and needs. Then, she designed the house around him and his furniture. Builder was Jim Eager.

His continental background shows up particularly in the furnishings. The vast pewter collection that has been in his family since 1700 is now displayed on a sturdy Dutch buffet which he refinished himself years ago.

With a bit of natural pride, he'll show the compact 18th century place-settings—a knife, fork and spoon—that his ancestors in Austria carried with them while traveling. The implements sold in half and fit into a silver cup monogrammed with his family coat of arms. Another set, far more primi-

tive, yet stunning, slips into a leather case similar to those in which the Indian fighters carried their knives.

In his little kitchen you'll see traces of the years spent in North Africa—exquisite copper bowls and urns. And from Italy, gay pottery dishes which he now combines with Mexican goblets. His table and chairs are Early American.

Although the house is located behind his son's home on East Glenn Street, it is far back on the lot giving privacy, but keeping within the family circle.

Mrs. Hughart designed the house in a square, with the bedroom in one corner. The living-dining area and kitchenette take up the rest of the space.

Although small, the house has a feeling of spaciousness—and has the style found in much larger homes. A corner fireplace in the living room adds interest with its built-up hearth. And the rich oil paintings on the walls contrast with the roughly textured adobe.

Beam ceilings, a cement floor and grayed paneling in the cupboards give the interior a rustic, western look.

And, in the midst of this tasteful setting, Mrs. Hughart has placed the lovely old furniture. A grayed, long buffet flanks one wall. Oriental rugs are scattered on the floor and plump chairs—made for long hours of sitting and talking—complete the comfortable living area.