

Bob Minkler: draftsman, home design, and founder, *Minkler Building Design*

As a young man starting out in the construction industry, Bob Minkler responded to an ad in a Los Angeles newspaper for a draftsman. Minkler, who lived in San Gabriel drafted plans for office buildings and apartment construction. He like the idea of applying his skill as a draftsman to a housing development project. It was well-known adobe home designer and contractor, Larry Weir, who had placed that ad in 1964. Weir had been name project co-coordinator for Pala Mesa Village, a three-phase planned senior retirement development near Fallbrook. The interview went well because Weir hired Mr. Minkler to start drafting Weir's three original adobe home designs for the project.

This first phase of development of "rustic ranch" style tract homes offered buyers three construction treatment: a combination board and batten with solid 16" adobe block, post adobe, or adobe veneer. Mr. Minkler worked on the Pala Mesa project for two years. He recalled with a chuckle that when Weir did not have enough drafting work, he would send Bob to Weir's adobe manufacturing yard to join other employees making adobe blocks. Mr. Minkler explained that Weir had a very special look to his blocks which distinguished them from machine made blocks manufactured in Escondido. The Pala Mesa Village project ended after the first phase of construction.

Bob Minkler worked for Larry Weir for two years at which time Weir took on other construction projects. Several years later, when Larry Weir returned to build in San Diego's North County, Mr. Minkler worked again for Weir. It is at that time Mr. Minkler drew the plans for the Webb adobe home in Poway [Adobe Home Tour, March 2016]. Sometime after, Minkler left Weir to work for Don Souther who had been a foreman for Weir. Souther started his own business as a custom adobe home builder in the Fallbrook, Bonsall and Pauma Valley areas. In 1973, Mr. Minkler formed his own company-- *Minkler Building Design*. As a young draftsman, Mr. Minkler started out drawing plans and working drawings for modest two-bedroom adobe homes; and, through a life long career, his talents and skills evolved into designing a diverse variety of stunning dream homes.

Interview by Alexa Clausen, volunteer. Escondido History Center. Adobe Home Tour, March 2016.
Source: Clausen phone interview Minkler 02-16-2017, and
<http://www.minkler-house-plans.com/building-design.html>