



TRAVEL OUR VIRTUAL HIGHWAY NEW MEXICO AT A GLANCE

ISSUE NO. 10



RIO GRANDE GORGE BRIDGE

SURVIVING NEW MEXICO SUSTAINABLE ENGINEERING

The Rio Grande rift has divided New Mexico and is the rugged course for the Rio Grande river. Linked by the “bridge to nowhere”, the **Rio Grande Gorge Bridge** stands at a height of 650’ above the river as a landmark feat of engineering. Upon completion it was awarded “Most Beautiful Steel Bridge” in the long span category. This iconic overpass leads into the vast landscapes and big skies of the northern region. Extreme temperature ranges from -50F to 120F has always made life in New Mexico challenging.

The ancient 800AD Chacoan culture engineered complex communities using astronomical alignments for organization and communication. **Chaco Culture National Park** preserved the sophisticated ingenuity of its people. Native Americans engineered Pueblos, communal complexes supporting hundreds to thousands of people. **Taos Pueblo National Park** remains a pristine example of the historic style, while a revival in modern pueblo architecture continues in this area. **Learn more at www.nps.gov/state/nm**



CHACO CULTURE



TAOS PUEBLO

EARTHSHIPS INDIGENOUS, ECO-FRIENDLY ARCHITECTURE

A modern adaptation of the pueblo style takes form in **Earthship Biotecture**. Branded by architect Michael Reynolds, these self-sufficient dwellings use natural and up-cycled materials to minimize their footprint in this quiet landscape. Defined by 6 basic principles,

these structures capitalize on natural phenomena. Filled recycled tires faced with adobe plaster take the place of an earth bricks; while glass bottle bricks add texture and filtered light to the interiors. **Learn more at www.earthshipglobal.com**



EARTHSHIP

Georgia O'Keeffe AN AMERICAN PAINTER



Trained in Chicago, established in New York and inspired in New Mexico, Georgia O'Keeffe has been recognized as the "Mother of American Modernism". She was first known for her enlarged

flower paintings and New York landscapes. Her abstract, magnified view of flowers was revolutionary at the turn of the century and the start of the modern movement. Later in her career, as she began to travel to the southwest, where her passion was renewed with unique juxtapositions from the western culture. *Ram's Head White Hollyhock* and *Little Hills* was a



pivotal point in her development. **Learn more at www.okeeffemuseum.org**



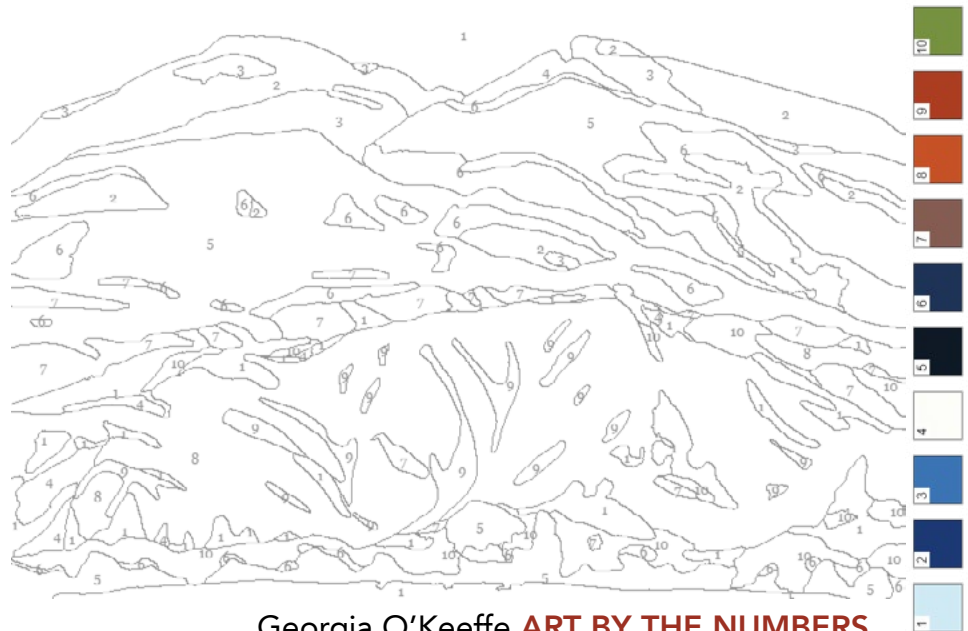
ARKANSAS - Passing through the great state of Texas, the final stop on our Virtual Highway road-trip is the K2M office in Rogers, Arkansas. I want to give a **SHOUT-OUT** to our team of Engineers who are the unsung hero's of all our projects. Most of their work gets covered up, but individually, their systems are the vital organs of a successful building project. Although we have Engineers in many of the K2M offices, the Arkansas crew are a great collective resource for all our designers. K2M's cloud-based technology make coordination with them seamless **Kudos** for a job well done!

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Unprecedented times call for unprecedented programs. I hope the K2M Virtual Highway was a welcomed relief to a monotonous few months. My goal was to inspire "you" to become a life-long learner. Somewhere west of Chicago I found "myself" yearning to know more! My bucket list has expanded and now includes a column for art appreciation. I am thankful for the generosity of all the organizations that offered virtual tours during this time of closure. It has truly been a pleasure traveling with you! Becky



K2M DESIGN



Georgia O'Keeffe **ART BY THE NUMBERS**