



## John Gaw Meem at Acoma: The Restoration of San Esteban del Rey Mission

By Kate Wingert-Playdon

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Built by Spanish Franciscan missionaries in the seventeenth century, the magnificent mission church at Acoma Pueblo in west-central New Mexico is the oldest and largest intact adobe structure in North America. But in the 1920s, in danger of becoming a ruin, the building was restored in a cooperative effort among Acoma Pueblo, which owned the structure, and other interested parties. Kate Wingert-Playdon's narrative of the restoration and the process behind it is the only detailed account of this milestone example of historic preservation, in which New Mexico's most famous architect, John Gaw Meem, played a major role.

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*By Kate Wingert-Playdon*

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

“This carefully detailed historical analysis reveals not only Meem’s role in the restoration of Acoma but his interaction with the many others who played a part.”? *Southwest Books of the Year*

#### From the Inside Flap

Kate Wingert-Playdon’s narrative of the restoration of San Esteban del Rey Mission and the process behind it is the only detailed account of this milestone example of historic preservation, in which New Mexico’s most famous architect, John Gaw Meem, played a major role.

#### About the Author

**Kate Wingert-Playdon** is an associate professor and department chair of architecture, Tyler School of Art, Temple University. Her contribution to the preservation work on the San Esteban del Rey Mission was recognized through a 2003 New Mexico Heritage Preservation Award.

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