

Green House on track for LEED Certification

As water becomes in ever shorter supply and energy prices continue to soar, a green house being built by Griz and Karen Adams in Tapatio Springs provides a model for how to build a practical yet sustainable residential structure.

In July, the construction team conducted a charrette - a pre-construction meeting where stakeholders met to outline a coordinated building effort and went through the LEED checklist provided by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC).

At that time, the house was placed on a track to be rated Platinum, the highest level USGBC recognizes, and of which there are currently only a handful in Texas. The construction of the new home began in August with preliminary site work and geothermal well drilling.

The house, designed by Boerne architect Ben Adam, AIA, and being built by Bob Mial, owner of Eco-Home of Fredericksburg, is a traditional two-story Hill Country rock and stucco structure that makes the most of its natural surroundings with several twists, including:

- Advanced passive solar design
- Geothermal heating and cooling by WaterFurnace and installed by Southwest Geothermal with all duct work within conditioned space
- Super energy efficient insulation package featuring Optima insulation and high-performance windows by Pella
- Metal "cool roof" with high

To learn how to build or remodel sustainably, the Cibolo Nature Center will hold a Green Building Workshop Saturday. Call 830-249-4616 for information.

reflectivity that sheds rainwater cleanly

- Water harvesting system for all potable water needs
- Passive solar hot water heating system by Solahart Texas
- Grey water re-use system for all irrigation
- Use of pervious concrete for all sidewalks, driveways and patios to help recharge groundwater supplies
- Native landscaping by Ingram landscape designer Katherine Crawford with trees that form wind breaks and a small garden that provides fresh vegetables, fruit, herbs and flowers for homeowners
- Ultra water and energy efficient Miele appliances by Homewerks of San Antonio
- Kohler low flow toilets, shower fixtures and a waterless urinal
- Cambria quartz countertops
- Sherwin-Williams no-VOC paint
- Engineered lumber by iLevel-



The green house being built by Griz and Karen Adams is in its early stages of framing. Note in the foreground the coil hoses sticking out of the ground. They tie into the geothermal system the Adams family is employing to maximize heating and cooling efficiency.

Weyerhaeuser

- FSC certified and standard lumber by 84 Lumber
- NaturalLee furnishings

To share best practices, the Adamses have teamed up with the Cibolo Nature Center to conduct a Green Building Work-

shop on Saturday, Nov. 15, from 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Experts participating in the Sustainable Concept House will be on-hand disseminating information related to passive solar design, geothermal heating and cooling, sustainable building

materials and their impact on human health and safety and solar hot water heating. Call the nature center at 830-249-4616 or visit www.cibolo.org to reserve a space. Cost is \$15 for CNC members and \$20 for non-members.

For more information about the home, visit www.boerngreenhouse.com,

blogs.mysanantonio.com/weblogs/Sustainable_Concept_House and www.naturalhomemagazine.com