

A Summer of Building Green



Framed porch and exterior views of the geothermal Goebel residence.

Interest in energy-efficient homes has exploded. Currently, we're starting up the seventh Built Green house and completing two others. We've added a full-time project manager, Ken Cowan, three excellent carpenters, and green designer Julie Fink, who's joined us as an intern. Serra is now scheduling projects into next summer. Come see our homes-in-progress!

Final rough-in is underway at the Goebel residence, 595 36 Rd., Palisade, a stunning stucco home of 6,000 sq. ft. with a detached office/garage. Geothermal ground loops and interior ducts have been installed at this stage. Though its initial outlay is higher, the geothermal system's only operating cost is electricity to run the pumps and the fan, a fraction of normal utilities. Energy Star has already rated the house for energy efficiency at a spectacular 93.7 (86 is a 4-star rating).

The Aieta residence, 654 Elizabeth Court, the Redlands, is at the interior finish stage, soon to be occupied by Marilyn and Joe Aieta, who are relocating from Wellesley, Mass.

This beautiful prairie-style, red clay stucco home holds an ICF (insulated concrete form)

foundation and blown-in cellulose insulation. It's also received an Energy Star energy efficiency rating of 89.1.

Serra Homes is the general contractor for the Nein residence, 701 Curecanti Circle, the Redlands, where Chris and Bill Nein are hard at work in the heat. This is the third house they've built from the ground up. They've set ICF's for the foundation and are now setting the forms (Lego-like blocks of extruded polystyrene) to pour above-grade walls. Later, they'll help with interior finish.

The 4,000 sq. ft. house will look much like others, but its concrete walls will last hundreds of years, enjoying a thermal flywheel effect: the stored energy in the walls will keep the house at an even temperature, never humid or muggy, and very quiet. The Neins are looking forward to living in their new home.

"We're pretty tired," Bill Nein says, laughing, late in the day. "We're finding out we're not as young as we were ten years ago...but we'll save some money on energy bills."



Upcoming news:

Mesa County Library - Gary Poush will give an hour-long talk on green building in October at the downtown library as part of a month-long environmental series. The talk, free and open to the public, will cover environmental building principles for both renovation and new residential projects. Homeowners, bring your questions!

EEBA 2005 - Excellence in Building Conference, October 26-28, 2005, Colorado Springs. Serra Construction will attend the Energy and Environmental Building Association (EEBA) annual conference and expo. The 3-day event, held at the Sheraton Colorado Springs Hotel, will include over 70 educational sessions, 80 exhibitors and hands-on demonstrations. For more information see our website: www.serrahomes.com.

**F
U
N

S
U
M
M
E
R

R
E
C
I
P
E**

From Sandy's Kitchen:

Banana-Papaya Ice Pops



- 2 cups papaya nectar
- 6 Tbs superfine sugar
- 2 large ripe bananas
- 6 Tbs fresh lemon juice

1. Heat papaya nectar in a saucepan until warm. Add the sugar, and stir until dissolved.
2. Puree bananas in a blender until smooth, Add lemon juice and mix until incorporated. Add papaya and sugar mixture; puree until smooth. Pour into ice pop molds; freeze until solid, 4-6 hours.



Serra Construction, Inc. • 2529 Grand Overlook Drive • Grand Junction, CO 81503