



Serra Wavelength

A publication of Serra Construction, Inc. Vol. 1 No. 1
970.243.3730 www.serrahomes.com Oct. 2004

What is "Green Building?"

Green building is a whole new way of looking at construction.

In this view a house is not separate from its environment; the systems within the house (structural, electrical, heating and cooling) don't function separately from each other, and the people who live within the house are not separate from it. Rather, in what is called **whole house**, or **integrated design**, the house is seen as a complex, living entity. Its shelter, setting, and inhabitants are equally considered.

This results in extremely durable houses that work and have a rightness to their design. They are aesthetically beautiful, highly insulated, extremely energy efficient, healthy for homeowners and environmentally responsible. Indoor air quality is high and room temperatures even, with no cold or hot spaces. Our owners often remark, "There's no dust."

We have brought green building to the Grand Valley with the first certified homes in G.J. Currently, we are building two more.

SerraHomes specializes in designing and building homes that meet the standards of:

-Built Green Colorado, a highly-rated state program that sets criteria and rates environmental builders.

-Energy Star, a national EPA program which sets energy efficiency standards. You may have seen Energy Star on appliance logos.

-EEBA, the national Energy & Environmental Building Association, which educates builders. For more specifics, call us (970) 243-3730 or visit our web site.

Rotary Club Talk

Gary Poush, president, Serra Construction, will speak at the Grand Junction Rotary Club early in 2005 on new developments in green building and how they affect homeowners. Watch for more details soon.



The new generation of cellulose is the foundation of the energy efficient home. Pictured here are master bedroom walls insulated with wet-blown cellulose before sheetrocking.

Stop by and see these Serra houses in progress:

2114 M Road, Robin & Cary Cox residence. 2300 sq. ft. passive solar house on a slab with in-floor radiant heat, and beautiful, recently finished acid-stained concrete floors. Certified Built Green & Energy Star home.

2142 Monument Village Circle, Glen & Eva Kuncce residence. 3500 sq.ft. custom home with sheetrock just completed. Texturing & taping continue through mid-October. Cellulose-insulated; stop by and notice how quiet and airtight the house is. Certified Built Green & Energy Star home.

767 35 3/10th Road, Vaughn & Lynn Goebel residence, start-up in late October. 7000 sq. ft. home in a vineyard overlooking the Colorado River and the east end of the Grand Valley. Planned use of geo-exchange (using latent heat of earth mass) to heat and cool the house.



HIKING THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE!

Summer, 2004. Peter Hollis and Gary Poush relax during a gruelling week-long backpacking trip on the Continental Divide trail in the San Juan Mtns. with Gary's son Julian and Peter's wife, Joan Frisbie, and son, Nikos.

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EEBA seminar at the Sunbuilt Builder's conference in Dallas, Texas in late October.

"One of the findings was that over 70% of homeowners interviewed said that they would spend up to \$5,000 on comfort and better air quality," he notes.

Over 60 engineers, architects, builders and suppliers attended the G.J. seminar. Poush hopes to help bring such a conference here next spring for homeowners.

"Building science is dramatically changing the way we design and build our homes. An informed homeowner is an empowered homeowner. If people don't want to be stuck with homes built under the old paradigm, they need to educate themselves and to know what to look for, and what questions to ask a builder."

From Sandy's Kitchen: Corn & Pepper Salad

4 ears corn or 3 c frozen	3/4 c olive oil	1 tsp garlic, minced
1 red pepper	1/3—1/2 c Parmesan cheese	1 tsp Dijon mustard
1 head romaine	1/4 c fresh lemon (or lime) juice	1 tblsp Worcestershire sauce
4 large eggs	1 1/2 c garlic croutons	Black pepper to taste

A family favorite in summer and early fall. Cook corn and cool; hard boil eggs. Cut a crisp red pepper into strips (or grill it first, 8-10 min. at 400 degrees, which adds a lovely flavor). Make dressing: combine mustard, olive oil, Parmesan, garlic, Worcestershire and pepper. Arrange croutons, corn and pepper strips atop washed, torn lettuce in a large bowl. Grate eggs as final topping. Add dressing, toss and voila! Serves four for dinner with a loaf of crusty bread and a light, dry white wine or fresh fall cider.

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"Houses that Work" Debuts in G.J.; Another Planned to "Empower Homeowners"

An all-day seminar on building science fundamentals, "Houses that Work," was held Saturday, Oct. 2, at the Adams Mark Hotel.

"This was about the best opportunity for professionals, particularly on the Western Slope, to be introduced to building science," says Gary Poush, HBA education chair, who arranged for the conference to be brought here. Poush has attended several national seminars on energy efficiency, including a "Houses that Work" conference in Durango, CO in July, 2004, and a forthcoming (cont.)