



GREEN BUILDING



“Responsibility is about understanding the collaborative effort of making a building on site and the responsibility we have to people who really can’t afford housing.”

Hank Louis DESIGN BUILD BLUFF

"THE TEACHER"

Hank Louis, a professor at the University of Utah's graduate school of architecture, wants his students to know that an architect's responsibility doesn't end at the drafting table. "It's about understanding the collaborative effort of making a building on site, and the responsibility we have to people who really can't afford housing."

In short, he wants his students to remember the people who will build and live in the buildings they design.

To foster this sense of responsibility, Louis founded Design Build Bluff, a program in which first-year grad students design and build a home for a family on the Navajo reservation near Bluff, Utah. And while the goal is to build a home for an underprivileged family, a by-product of the program is a new crop of architects intimately familiar with how to build Earth-friendly homes.

For starters, they're off the power grid. "You can see electrical poles out there," says Louis, "but none of the houses on the reserva-

tion have power yet." Because energy is at a premium, the students design the homes for maximum efficiency, and they gain an intricate knowledge of passive solar design—architecture that cools during the summer and keeps warm when the weather's cold.

And because the program operates on a limited cash supply—the budget for each home is \$72,000—the students learn the value of re-use. "Every window we've ever used is a recycled window," says Louis. "Found" items like old road signs might stand in for wallpaper, or, as in the latest project, discarded tires create a sweeping retaining wall.

The cycle ends every May, when the families move into their new homes. But the word "end" is misleading. "The whole class from last year is going to go back," says Louis. Apparently an exterior wall is leaking and needs re-sealing. "They've been raising the funds and raising their own awareness to do it," he says. "That tells me that they've gotten that much out of this class, to feel that responsibility."

facts & figures

This land truly belongs to you and me: nearly **80 percent** of Utah's land is managed for public use by federal and state agencies.

Between 1974 and 1992, Utah lost nearly **a million acres** of farmland to development.

The Park City Center for Public Policy reports that urban developed land in the 10 counties of the Wasatch Front and Back will increase from 389 square miles in 2000 to 697 square miles in 2030.

FIVE STEPS TO AN ENERGY-EFFICIENT HOME



Even if your appliances are off, they still use power—especially if they have indicator lights or LCD displays. » Kill "vampire" appliances by plugging them into power strips and flipping the switch when they're not in use.



Keep your fridge cooler (and save electricity) by keeping it full. » If you don't want a crowded chill chest, add just a few gallons of water to the bottom shelf.

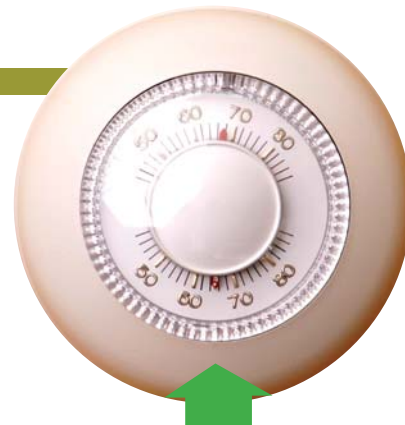


If every American home replaced one lightbulb with an efficient model, we'd save enough energy to light 2.5 million homes for a year. » Fluorescents stay cooler than incandescents, so they save money on your A/C, too.



The Green Building Center

See eco-friendly homes up close at the Green Home Tour, September 22. » For more information, contact the Green Building Center. (green-buildingcenter.net, 801-484-6278).



Two degrees can make a big difference. » In the winter, dip the thermostat from 70 degrees to 68; in the summer, hike it up from 76 to 78. These tiny shifts will prevent 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere.