ENERGY FEATURES

- Southern Orientation
- Straw Bale walls
- Interior and exterior earthen plasters
- Radiant heated adobe floors
- Low E windows
- Sod Roof on garage

GREEN FEATURES

- Post and beam, straw bale infill design with plaster
- Locally harvested timber from beetle killed Ponderosa Pine
- Homemade plaster and adhesive coating
- Rocks for retaining walls and wainscoting from property
- Blown in cellulose insulation for rafters
- OSMO Hardwax for wood finish

RE-USE / SALVAGE FEATURES

- 50%–60% of overall materials reclaimed
- Used fixtures (sinks, bathtub, lighting)
- Cabinets reclaimed from previous home
- Used fixtures (sinks, bathtub, lighting)
- Cabinets reclaimed from previous home
- Sill plate and exterior window sills from deconstructed deck
- Reclaimed roof tiles
- No waste in terms of materials - everything used (even scraps for wood burning stove)

Maddux Residence
Spring Gulch

Do It Yourself Straw Bale

by Naomi and Rick Maddux

Your home is an extension and reflection of yourself. However when built with conscious design, it has the potential to become a haven for generations to come. The setting a home sits in is as intrinsic to its existence as the people who created and inhabit it. If you build with respect for life, you are creating a temple in which to honor yourself, the land, your community, future generations, and the creative force that knits existence together

The choices we make in life are rooted in our values. We do our best to respect and be a steward to all living things, live lightly on the land, actively engage our talents to contribute to the world around us, and build and nurture community relations. Building green is one way to bring our values into physical form on a large scale.

The building experience for us has been exhilarating, hard work, community building, exciting, and often consuming, both mentally and physically. It has taken everything we have and a bit more. We had to learn to manage our lives outside our building process and try to keep it in balance, which is much easier said than done.

We found solar technology to be cost prohibitive for our "out of pocket home builder" situation; otherwise we'd be completely solar. Instead, we have stubbed our plumbing to be able to add panels and storage for a future solar domestic hot water and radiant heating system. Our hopes are that solar technologies will improve over time while utility company policies for solar electricity feedback work to bring the costs down so that we, and others like us, may switch to solar for all of our utility needs. Thank goodness for passive solar. It doesn't cost a dime; just good design.

Year Built 2005-2006
Home Size 1380 Sq.Ft.
Architect/Designer Homeowners
Builder Homeowners

RESOURCES

The Natural Plaster Book
Daniel P. Chiras

The Natural Home
Daniel P. Chiras

The Strawbale House
Athena & Bill Steen and David Bainbridge with David Isenberg

The Last Straw Magazine

Black and Decker Series: Advanced Home Wiring

Radiant Basics
John Siegnthaler

Serious Strawbale
Paul Lacinski and Michel Bergeron

Rick and Naomi Maddux