

BUSINESS & MONEY

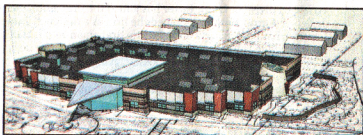
Now you know.



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SUNDAY
AUGUST 20, 2006

SAVING MONEY, STEPPING LIGHTLY

Green gains steam



Courtesy art

Above, the architectural rendering of the new Hunter Clinic, which resembles an eagle in flight. Below, Jon and Alissa Cyphers' house on Richmond is made of straw.

SOME GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

- Adobe or earthen walls: saves energy, money and uses local renewable resources
- Bamboo flooring: fast-growing grass over wood
- Reused wood flooring: less use of resources
- Composite lumber: uses

- recycled materials
 - High-efficiency air conditioners without HCFC: less impact on ozone layer
 - Kitchen recycling center: less trash
- Find more green technologies on Page 5C.

BY DAN
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The Wichita Eagle

Do you have Jimmy Carter flashbacks when you hear the term "green architecture"?

Don't. Environmentally friendly architecture has moved way beyond the leaky solar water heater on the roof to encompass a range of techniques and materials for all types of construction.

While Wichita has just a trace of green construction, it is likely to gain acceptance because the topic has become hot nationally.

Green has moved from a topic for environmentalists to one for investors, and from obscure trade journals to the mainstream press. In Chicago, more than 200 building roofs are covered with landscaping,

total-
ing 2.5

million square feet. In Johnson County, officials unveiled a \$30 million green office building in February.

"It's definitely become a national movement," said Dave Roesler, chairman of the Kansas City Green Building Council and manager of facilities design at Hallmark.

What's changed from the Carter years, proponents say, is that building green now makes sense financially in the long run, particularly because of higher energy prices.

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Dave Williams/The Wichita Eagle

GREEN

From Page 1C

It's no longer just a guilt trip, proponents say, although concerns about global warming does drive interest.

What is green?

Most people already use some kind of green product, such as double-paned argon glass, low-flow toilets, cement shingles, sky-lights, landscaping with native plants, factory-built trusses or locally quarried stone.

Other green materials are more exotic, such as permeable asphalt and energy-collecting shingles. Still other practices are throwbacks to an earlier time, such as earthen walls and cisterns to catch rainwater.

The goal of green building is to reduce energy and water consumption, materials waste and environmental damage.

Homeowners or builders can adopt as many or as few of the strategies as they want. But big savings accumulates only by using several strategies together.

The U.S. Green Building Council, a collection of public and private groups, has created a formal certification called LEED that awards points for each strat-

MORE GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

- Low- or no-volatile organic compound paint and carpets: improves air quality
- Rainwater harvesting and permeable pavement: saves money, cuts run-off pollution and lessens impact on city water treatment plant.
- Strawbale construction and strawboard panels: saves energy, money.
- Wind power generator: saves energy
- Xeriscaping: saves water

Source: U.S. Green Building Council

egy used.

Proponents say many green strategies add no cost, particularly when long-term energy savings are included, while going all the way to LEED certification adds about 2 percent to the cost of a project.

Wess Galyon, president of the Wichita Area Builders Association, said the local public isn't demanding green — although they wouldn't be opposed if it didn't cost any more.

"It's a very conservative market and slow to change," he said.

On the other hand, Galyon said, builders are adopting some practices that turn out to be green, often driven by the market place or government regulation. For instance, he said, area building lots are getting smaller as land gets more expensive and homebuyers opt for amenities over space.

A house of straw

Jon and Alissa Cyphers approached architects Craig Rhodes and Chris Kiewer of Wilson Darnell Mann in 2003 for help building an environmentally sound house.

They built their house around several energy-saving concepts. Jon Cyphers estimates he spends \$600 to \$800 a year to heat and cool his house.

The house is wood frame, but the walls are made of compressed straw bales that provide R-50 insulation, more than twice what is typical in new houses.

The house's central feature is a large expanse of glass facing southeast. Light coming through the two-story glass wall lights the house in the daytime, reducing energy consumption.

An overhang above the wall is angled to allow direct sunlight only in the early morning during the warm months but plenty of

RESOURCES

Some places to start researching green buildings:

- www.usgbc.org.
- www.toolbase.org. Under home building topics, click on green building.
- www.aia.org.

— Dan Voorhis

sun in winter — reducing heating and cooling costs.

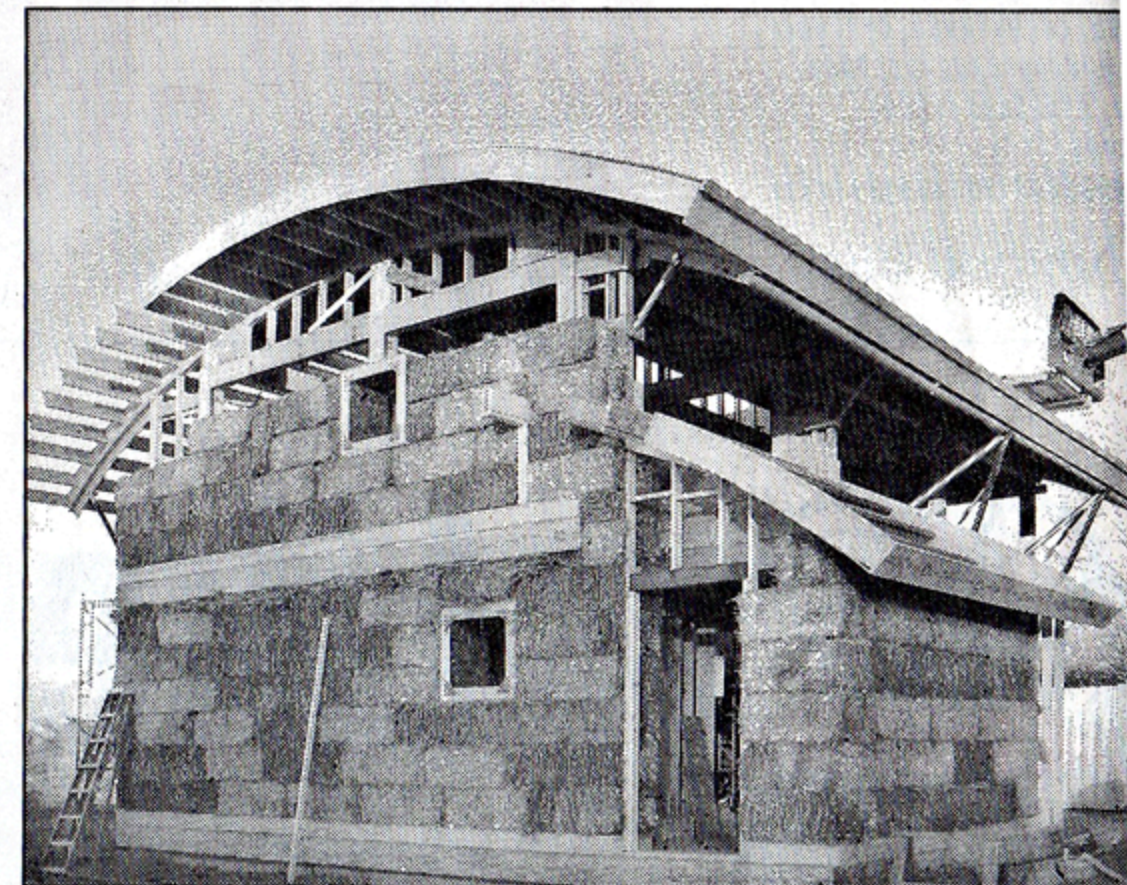
An eagle-shaped clinic

More ambitious is the planned new Hunter Health Clinic, set behind the present clinic near Central and Grove.

Chief executive Susette Schwartz and the architects of Law/Kingdon aim to make new clinic the first LEED-certified building in Wichita.

Architect Dan Dokken's plan includes using natural light to illuminate the interior through windows on the roof, wood recycled from other buildings, stone and brick from the area, reflective tiles on the roof to reduce heat, paint and carpet containing fewer volatile organic compounds, and more.

The most striking feature of the clinic will be the pointed roof overhang above the front door. The Hunter Health Clinic is an



Courtesy photo

Within the walls of the Cyphers' house are compressed straw bales that provide R-50 insulation, more than twice that found in a typical new home.

outgrowth of an American Indian health program.

The building is designed to resemble an eagle and the overhang is its beak. The overhang also will channel rainwater into an underground cistern where it later will be used to water the landscaping.

"We know we will save energy and money, and feel good about it because this reflects our love for our Mother Earth," Schwartz said.

Crews will break ground on

the project in November. It is scheduled to open in December 2007.

Green building still feels a bit like an oddball idea in Wichita, its proponents acknowledge. But Rhodes remains optimistic that that attitude is changing.

"I'd like to think that in 10 years we won't be even talking about it," he said. "It'll be mainstream."

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