

WORKSHOP INFORMATION AT ADOBE ALLIANCE

November 1-4, 07

Presidio, Texas, in the Big Bend on the Rio Grande,
reached by scenic route only

Directions:

South from Marfa, Texas, on 67. Driving into Presidio you will cross a long bridge over shallow Cibolo creek, you turn left onto 170 east which meanders through Presidio. At the "Y" turn left. There will be an AutoZone store on your left and the Post Office on your right. Stay on this paved street until you leave Presidio. After 6 miles from Presidio turn left onto Casa Piedra dirt road, 1.5 miles up the mesa is the swan house/adobe lab for Adobe Alliance on the right. Welcome! Presidio has a private airport. Also it is 3 hours by bus from Chihuahua airport, 4 hours from El Paso and Midland, Texas, airports.

Purpose of the workshop: to examine and learn the theory and hand-building of an adobe semi-spherical domed roof without wood support; preparation and application of a waterproof earth plaster; exploration in water protection with metal scales. For people in need of housing this form of roof, together with the vault, is the most economical form of secure adobe roofing.

Activities: We will actually build a dome under the tutelage of Jesusita Jimenez, placing the smaller roof bricks in concentric circles to form a high dome. Once it is closed you will trowel over the dome our triumphant plaster of clay, straw, water, prickly pear juice and horse manure. We will apply an alis (a thin wash) of clay and water over an existing, weathered, proven plaster for the purpose of filling in interstices and covering straw ends which can attract termites.

Donations to the non-profit Adobe Alliance, Inc. are more than appreciated, any amount, any time. We are barely self-sufficient.

Fee: \$350 before October 15, 2006, \$400 thereafter. Please send fee to Adobe Alliance, P.O. Box 1915, Presidio, Texas 79845. Scholarships available. We are grateful for tuitions paid in advance to cover preparatory expenses. For information, e-mail: swan@adobealliance.org. Interns who wish to work two weeks before the eco-workshop and/or two weeks beyond are welcome with early notification by calling 832 277 4425 (cell) or 432 229 4425 after October 10, '07.

This intensive hands-on course is limited to 16 people. Participants are free to suggest amendments at any time. Schedule will be posted on web after October 15, '07. We will plan for dinner in Ojinaga, Mexico, after visit to the cemetery on the day of the dead, Nov. 2, and brisket dinner at Big Bend State Ranch.

Lodgings: In Presidio are three motels, The Three Palms (#432-229-3211), Big Bend Motel (#432-229-3611) and Riata Inn (#432-229-2528). Also right across the bridge in Ojinaga, Mexico, is a choice of clean, inexpensive motels. The town is not a tourist destination, it is quiet and welcomes visitors. La Paloma RV park welcomes campers with tents who will benefit from showers and laundry (#432-229-2992). There is camping space on my land but no water.

Comforts: 1. Bring sun protection, work gloves, heavy shoes, a bucket and a float, plus your own drinking water as my filter is too slow for 20+ thirsty people. 2. There is a great view from the privy down the bluff to the east (sorry! no flushing indoors lest we overburden and even drain the 12 batteries which provide electricity that pumps water to the 24-volt solar system.) 3. You may sleep on the deck

on your mattress and in your bag, weather permitting (November hovers between 80 degrees at 1pm and 60 at 7 am.) 4. Do not lean over to pet my dog, Hassan Fatima, if you are wearing a gimme cap or a large hat; she feels attacked. 5. Feel free to bring your dog. 6. Required reading: Architecture For The Poor, Hassan Fathy, U. of Chicago Press, also sold in Mexico in Spanish. 7. We will arrange car-pooling to distant Presidio by phone or e-mail during the last week before the workshop.

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