

ADOBE ALLIANCE WORKSHOP NOVEMBER 1-4, 2007

Presidio, Texas, in the glorious Big Bend country
on the Rio Grande



Photo Credit: Yasmina Rossi

Learn to mix mortar and to position adobe blocks to make four simple walls keyed at the corners. Then together we will build a domed roof above a square space, fashioning squinches at each corner of the walls. Squinches serve to convert the original square formed by the walls into an octagon upon which the hemispherical roof of a dome can rise solidly.

We will begin each day at the building site on the property of Carlos Rohana, across the bridge in Ojinaga, Chihuahua state, Mexico. Midday, as the weather warms, we will move back to the coolness of the adobe walls of the Swan House and Experimental Lab for lunch and seminars on the theory of Nubian vault and dome construction. These handmade adobe roofs are the least expensive and the healthiest form of protection from the elements. Labor intensive, they require only the earth beneath your feet as building material, water and straw. Two people can cover a square room in maximum three days.

We are limiting our workshop to 16 people, not including *maestra de adobe* Jesusita Jimenez for hands-on instruction and Simone Swan who will teach theory, history and experiences in earth architecture based on her apprenticeship in Egypt, with Hassan Fathy (1900-1989), and her design and building experience in Mexico and in West Texas. Interns who are spending time at Adobe Alliance before and after the workshop will serve as aids.

We guarantee a jolly time under the big Texas sky in a desert of immense beauty.

Bring your own water, sun protection, your dog, work gloves and a bucket.

The book *Simone Swan: Adobe Building* by workshop graduate Dennis Dollens is available from Amazon.com and *Adobe Futures* by Swan is in-the-works with Princeton Architectural Press.

**Fee is \$350 payable before October 1, 2007, to Adobe Alliance, Inc., tax-deductible,
P.O.Box 1915, Presidio, Texas 79845. (\$400 after October 1.)**

Information on lodging on either side of the Rio Grande, on meals and directions will be mailed individually.

www.adobealliance.org