



EARTH USA 2011

Sep 30, Oct 1 & 2, 2011 – Albuquerque, New Mexico

Authors:

Liana Sanchez, Owner/CEO, Avanyu General Contracting - New Mexico, USA
Mateo Peixinho, Owner/COO, Avanyu General Contracting - New Mexico, USA
Pat Taylor, Historic Adobe Preservation, Avanyu General Contracting - New Mexico, USA

Title:

Honoring our past, Preserving our future; Owe'neh Bupingeh Rehabilitation Project, Ohkay Owingeh, formerly San Juan Pueblo

Abstract:

Several years ago the Ohkay Owingeh (formerly San Juan Pueblo) Housing Authority, realized the need to preserve their pueblo core through a comprehensive rehabilitation project which included the mud plastering of their adobe homes. With a modest grant from the State Historic Preservation Office to document existing buildings and to research the pueblo's past as a first step in a multiyear preservation project. Together with "Atkin Olshin Scade Architects" they held countless meetings with the pueblo's community members to develop the Owe'neh Bupingeh Rehabilitation Project. The commitment to Traditional Earth construction is extraordinary.

The word Owe'neh Bupingeh loosely translates to "center of our universe" which is in reference to the pueblo's core, the center. The pueblo's rich cultural history continues forward with each generation in carrying on their cultural traditions. The pueblo's vibrant traditions reflect their honoring of their past as they preserve their future.

Avanyu General Contracting was selected to be the project's contractor. Their crew consists of 48% Ohkay Owingeh members and a total of 65% tribal pueblo members which brings over \$300,000 to their local economy. The crew is being trained in adobe, mud, stone and wood preservation. The extensive training of Ohkay Owingeh and nearby pueblo members along with the neighboring communities has reaped untold benefits not only to the local economy but to historic preservation, related preservation training and sustainable architecture as well. It is our privilege to be able to share this story with the Earth USA 2011 Conference.