

Frame of Mind

Summer 2004

Tectonics Breaks New Ground



Tectonics is breaking ground on six new homes this summer. With homes as far away as Smith Mountain Lake, and several solar-powered homes (one totally off the grid), our home building business has been expanding in many directions.

The Wintergreen area continues to be Tectonics' primary building location (the hub of the wheel so to speak) but we have been building in several new areas. Two homes are in progress at Smith Mountain Lake, a renowned vacation destination in Southwest Virginia. Both are Lindal Cedar Homes embracing the grand views of the lake (see photos). We have even taken on building boat docks as a service to our clients. This



has allowed us to use the pilings (log poles to support decks) on jobs on the mountain with high decks. Very cool! Other new projects have taken us northward where we are designing and constructing two houses in rural areas of Albemarle County. Both on large plots of land, these remote mountaintop locations are a contrast to our more densely populated Wintergreen building sites.

Another development here at Tectonics is in the field of technology. We are pleased to have the opportunity to build an entirely solar-powered house for one of our clients. This house is entirely off the grid, generating all its own power from solar energy. The photovoltaic solar panels on the house convert sunlight into DC current. This current is stored in

batteries which supply all lights and appliances with power. Floors are heated with hot water-coils embedded in the cement groundwork. Solar panels convert the sun's heat into hot water which courses through the floors of the home in the winter. In the summer, this same liquid picks up coolness from the basement and cools the home. Without sunlight, a propane generator powers the batteries, allowing this house to be entirely independent of the public utilities power grid.

These cutting-edge technologies and prominent locations are excellent opportunities for us to grow and explore. We would like to thank you for your support as we continue to expand our business and break new ground.



Being Green Can be Easy—Andrew Krochak

Welcome to the environmentally conscious design department of Tectonics II. As the head designer I try to involve these environmentally sensitive theories in every one of our projects, no matter how small or large, new construction or remodels. As a graduate of Temple University's ecologically based design school, I have always strived to achieve a harmonious balance between the natural ecosystem and the built systems we inhabit. I employ these techniques in my per-



sonal life, and I foresee this thought process becoming more and more evident in the projects we design and build here at Tectonics II.

This is truly a new age of enlightenment as far as "green" design goes. Many theories and practices which have in the past been too costly to economically implement, have been dramatically improved in their affordability and availability. The more widespread these techniques become, the less expensive they become. Through use these systems also tend to improve, as more research and data is generated.

The main goals I have for my designs, though easily quantified, are not always easily attained. These include but are not limited to:

- Always keeping our environment in mind when designing a new home or addition, and the short and long term effects of such construction.

Heating coils to be embedded in concrete, powered by solar paneling

- Energy conscious decisions, global as well as local.
- Focus on energy efficiency, including passive solar design, maximizing the use of natural elements for the total welfare of house and home, as well as it's inhabitants.
- Healthy living through healthy design

With each installment of this contribution I will explore a different aspect of sustainable and energy efficient design, focusing on environmental as well as economic issues and goals. Design concepts will focus not only on new construction, but also on how to amend existing systems. Topics will include articles on passive solar techniques, active solar systems, energy efficient lighting, the implementation and use of "green", environmentally friendly materials (interior and exterior), as well as physiologically and psychologically health interior design techniques and theories.

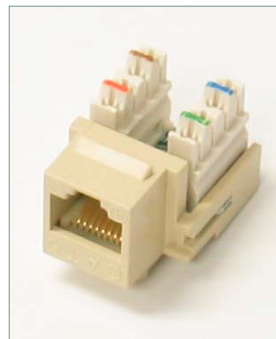
Custom Home Concept: Wired for the Future—Neil Middlesworth

In today's homes most people think phone jacks and cable jacks are all you need to be connected to the Internet. But the future is fast upon us and the computer dialup modem is becoming a thing of the 90's. Cable, DSL, Wireless Internet and satellite modems are at our doorstep with break neck speeds that blow the dialup modem away. Many clients say, "I have no need for that" or "My computer does what I want it to do."

The Internet is being held back because website developers still have to cut everything down in size to work on dialup connection speeds.

With the increasing popularity of broadband internet, this will not always be the case. Making your home ready for the computer-driven future is easier than you think.

I recommend that my clients install a CAT 5 wire in every room that has a phone jack and cable jack. CAT 5 jacks are most frequently used for internet



Category 5 Jack

access or to network several computers together within a single home, allowing all computers to use one DSL or cable line. Most computers today come with a 10/100 network jack built in and are ready for this function.

CAT 5 jacks can also be used to hook-up home audio systems, or "Smart Homes." Smart home technology allows an owner to adjust lighting, heating, air conditioning, and security systems from the internet or telephone. These CAT 5 jacks typically cost \$85 per jack, in my opinion, a worthwhile investment.

Realizing a Lifelong Dream— Richard Turner

Ever since I was a young boy building tree houses in the backyard, woodworking has been a passion. At eight, I gathered tall woody weeds from the fields near my home and built myself a thatched bedroom in the basement— which, needless to say, didn't go over well with my parents. I refined my woodworking skills in eighth and ninth grade shop class, making spice racks, bookcases, cutting boards and other household items. While working summers during high school as a carpenter's helper, I began collecting hand tools and shop equipment and carved out a space in my parent's basement to call my own. There I would retreat to pursue my woodworking.

After college, I set my eyes on becoming a custom homebuilder, so

time spent leisurely working in the in the workshop was a luxury. As the business grew, we began to include more of the details that define a fine custom home, such as complicated trim work, built-in cabinetry, custom shelving, and in-home libraries. Often, at the end of a long workday, I would once again retreat to the workshop in the basement of my mother's home to whittle out something to take to the job site the next day. My dream was always to have a shop of my own, and the time to "play" there, but the business of earning a living came first.

That dream now seems finally within reach. My shop tools, which have resided in my mother's basement for the last 25 years, are finally sitting in my garage awaiting installation of casters so they can be

moved easily around the shop to accommodate projects large and small. Hand tools are slowly making their way to pegboard secured to the now-insulated stud walls, and the newly installed fluorescent lighting overhead turns the darkness of a spring evening into the brightness of high noon. And when Old Man Winter visits, a jug of fuel to supply the kerosene heater will keep my shop toasty warm.

Woodworking magazines have been flying off the shelves, providing a wealth of ideas for projects to keep me busy in the workshop—and happily so—for years to come. I invite you to check back periodically for updates and for pictures of my completed projects. Ah, the power of positive thinking!

Tectonics Honored at Lindal Convention

Tectonics II, Ltd. was awarded the 2003 Top Achievement Award, recognition in the President's Club, and was rated 6th internationally in dealer sales at the Lindal Cedar Homes International Dealer Convention held January 22-25, 2004 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Company President Bob Lindal, wel-

comed over 200 dealers from the U.S., Canada, Japan and Russia to the annual meeting which recognizes the performance of outstanding dealers as well as providing excellent opportunities. The entire Tectonics staff attended educational workshops on the latest in home design techniques and

product technology. Based in Seattle, Lindal Cedar Homes, the world's largest manufacturer of custom cedar homes has been creating homes for over 50 years.

Steve Crandall receives Tectonics' 2003 Top Achievement Award



Tectonics "Perfect Vacation Home"

Stayed tuned to the Travel Channel for a new show expected to premiere next fall, the "Perfect Vacation Home." Hosted by Joanne Liebler, the show will highlight vacation homes across the country and fantastic vacation destinations. Tectonics has been selected to showcase the O'Shea residence at Wintergreen.

Owners Ken & Sarita O'Shea make their home in South Riding, Vir-

ginia and have three young boys. The Travel Channel crew has traveled to Wintergreen to shoot the home construction twice and will return when the home is completed. The O'Shea's named their vacation home "A River Runs Through It" because of the engineering issues



encountered during the pouring of the footings where a small stream was discovered underneath the site. It also features a beautiful Arts & Crafts style stone fireplace.

The O'Shea's home is expected to be completed in early fall. One other interesting tidbit to watch for in the program Steve's famous turkey call which we understand made it through the editing of the second installment!

Lifestyles

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STRESS MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

Stress related illnesses and decreased productivity cost American businesses more than \$150 billion each year. There are five ways to combat job stress:

Don't react, act. Identify the underlying issue. Try to stay objective, especially if other people are involved. Use friends, trusted co-workers and others who may have a valuable perspective to help analyze the situation and identify basic issues.

Take control. Again, use carefully selected friends, and co-workers to help define and reinforce the course of action. The key is to *do something*.

Learn effective communication skills. Effective communication means being able to:

- * Organize thoughts and key points
- * Express ideas clearly and logically
- * Objectively identify the fundamental stress issues
- * Identify a solution or course of action
- * Identify the benefits to your superior and the company

Create a means to combat boredom. Learn why your job is necessary, how it contributes to the company.

Know what you like about your job. Figure out how to involve yourself in those aspects, either by volunteering for additional responsibilities or by seeking additional training.

Spring Garden Tip

Before you throw away your tea bag and coffee filters after they've fulfilled their duties you'll find they can also be helpful in the garden. Add used tea leaves and coffee grounds to the compost pile, and use the compost as mulch; or simply mix them into the ground occasionally, letting the nutrients enrich the soil. You'll see a noticeable difference in your acid loving plants such as azaleas, rhododendrons. Be sure to remove the tags, strings, and staples from tea bags before using them in the garden.

Events Around the Area

Here are a few of our favorite events that are sure to be yours too!

June 18-26 19th Annual James River Batteau Festival begins Friday evening with a concert at the Riverfront in Lynchburg and the batteau fleet will leave from Percival's Island at 12:00 noon on Saturday the 19th. We are anticipating a fleet of 16 batteaux for this year's festival. After leaving Percival's Island, they will travel 120 miles in 8 days arriving at Maiden's landing.
<http://www.batteaufestival.com>

June 26-27th— 12th Annual Nelson County Summer Festival at Oak Ridge Estate. Music and wine festival with artisans, food, children's activities and rural living exhibits that provide a family atmosphere.
 11-6. Fee. 800-282-8223.

July 3-4th— Fourth of July Jubilee at Wintergreen Resort. Block party, courtyard music, family BBQ, All American Concert, and grand fireworks display on Sunday.
 434-361-8180.

July 8-26th— Summer Music Festival. *Mozart in the Mountains*. Annual Wintergreen Summer Music Festival. 434-325-8292.

August 14th— Celtic Festival at Wintergreen. Music & Dance Celtic imports and specialty vendors, demonstrations, and food.
 434-325-8292.

September 3-5th— Labor Day Spectacular at Wintergreen. Arts and Crafts show. Courtyard cook-out, and musical entertainment. Hayrides and chairlift rides.
 434-325-8292.

Other Events

Wintergreen Performing Arts holds monthly concerts and musical events in the Wintergreen area
<http://www.wtgmusic.org>

Calendar of Events in the Nelson County area can be found at
<http://www.nelsoncounty.com>
<http://www.nelsoncountyva.org>