



Summer 2009, Volume 2, Issue 2

Professional Partners

Building a better world, one community at a time...

Thailand Project Update

No Lae Village School, Do Ang Khang, Thailand

The majority of the school construction was completed by the end of February 2009. The school is a three-room building with reinforced concrete foundation, masonry interior and exterior walls, and a wood truss roof. Engineers Without Borders inspectors will travel to the site for a final inspection in early September to make sure the contractor has completed the remaining items. These items include anchoring end walls to the roof, installation of blocking and plywood panel edge supports, repair of leaky roof, and alleviation of minor site drainage issues. Remaining finishing work such as electrical, lighting, flooring and building hardware will be furnished and funded by the King's Royal Project and constructed after the September inspection. If necessary, an additional inspection will be performed in November. The team looks forward to the community being able to use the facility by the end of the year.

Please contact Mike McMenamain (studentliaison@ewb-la.org) if you are interested in working on this project. There may be an opening for an experienced structural engineer to travel to Thailand in November to assist in any further inspection is needed.

Join members of EWB-LA for a weekend of volunteering near Ensenada, Mexico
Project: Eben Ezer Nursing Home

September 11th - 13th (Friday to Sunday) or
September 25th - 27th (Friday to Sunday)

You may recall EWB-LA's field trip to Hesperia, CA in February of 2008 to meet with the now late architect Nader Khalili and learn about his work with the Cal-Earth Institute (www.calearth.org). He spoke to us about his personal and professional journey which led to the founding of Cal-Earth. A tour of the Institute grounds put us in touch with a building technology that has been around for thousands of years but yet struggles to find mainstream acceptance - constructing a shelter of the earth.

At the recent August general meeting EWB-LA heard from a group employing Cal-Earth's EcoDome construction techniques on a nursing home project in Baja California, Mexico. Now you have the opportunity to get involved!

Note: This is not an official EWB-LA project. Contact Jeff Baumgardner at outreach@ewb-la.org to volunteer or for more information.

Donate to EWB-LA

Make checks payable to
**Engineers Without Borders -
Los Angeles**

If you would like the donation to be used for a specific project or committee please indicate this in the memo line.

Mail to:

EWB - LA

PO Box 5510

Santa Monica, CA 90409-5510



Mali Project Update

The EWB-LA and EWB-USA design reviews for the Mali Project were recently completed, and the team received some great feedback from many expert engineers, both in the local chapter of EWB and the national team. Some of the items that the team was encouraged to work through are:

- Include concrete mix specifications for a tap stand
- Topographical drawings for the pipeline
- Converting to metric measures for translations
- Connection detail for solar panels to the roof and correction of a solar side view diagram.

The pipeline will start in Zouera which has the best chance for water flow success, based on engineering measurements, and put a contingency plan in place if water does not flow. The planning for raising the reservoir will take some time and care, so this will not happen on the first implementation trip. However, a detailed assessment for this will be completed while there. Clearly the lesson learned is to plan to bring elevation survey equipment on the next assessment trip

An Evening With Earthships

September 29, 6-10pm. Location TBD.

"... the Earthship is probably the model of a sustainable home unrivaled in the modern world."

Join EWB-LA for a special presentation by guest speaker Jonah Reynolds, son of founder/principal of New Mexico-based Earthship Biotecture. For decades Earthship Biotecture has been working to bring some unconventional yet very practical and affordable construction practices into the mainstream, one "Earthship" at a time, with a goal to evolve the way humans live on this planet.

Earthship Biotecture has been designing and building Earthship homes all over the world and has received much attention for its mixed use of natural materials along with societal byproducts, such as tires, bottles, and cans. These unique structures have been designed to reduce humankind's impact on the planet while at the same time strengthen our connection to it through features such as passive solar heating/cooling, PV power, rainwater catchment, grey/black water treatment, and more.

Jonah will be giving a general overview of what it means to build an "Earthship", and share details of some Earthship Biotecture projects. Mark your calendar!! www.earthshipbiotecture.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sep 11-13:** Ensenada Outreach Activity.
- September 12, 10 am:** SC Meeting @ Santa Monica Library
- Sep 25-27:** Ensenada Outreach Activity.
- Sep 29, 6pm:** Earthship Biotecture Presentation.
- Oct 9-11:** EWB-USA West Coast Region Workshop
- October 27, 7pm:** General Meeting @ Loyola Marymount

Annual Gala - November 13

8pm 2009 EWB-LAPP Annual Gala

@ The Artists Gallery

2903 Santa Monica, CA 90404

\$40 prepay. \$50 door

Silent auction, music, drinks, & h'or d'ouvres

Volunteers Ed Andrews, Alan Kwan, and Tony Haske are leading the charge to finalize all designs and include them in our vendor agreements. If you would like to get involved in this project please contact Keely McGeehan (keely@nomadhope.org) and follow their blog at nomadhope.blogspot.com.

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