

Furman selected for Southern Living home  
*Green structure will showcase environmentally friendly design*

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A 3,000-square-foot Southern Living Showcase Home overlooking Furman University's swan lake will produce all its own power and use renewable building materials such as bamboo flooring, its designer said.

The Cliffs Cottage, named for major donor The Cliffs Communities, will be one of the first homes in the country with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, university President David Shi said in announcing the project Monday.

"Furman has a real commitment on their campus to green and to an environmentally friendly campus," said Southern Living editor John Floyd. "It makes a perfect environment for a Showcase house."



It's the third Showcase Home the magazine has put in South Carolina in the four years of the program. The first was at the South Carolina Botanical Gardens at Clemson University.

The Furman home, which will be built by Triangle Construction of Greenville, will showcase a variety of energy-saving and energy-producing technologies, plus an organic garden and an ornamental garden, both irrigated with water collected from the roof in cisterns, said architect J. Scott Johnston.

"All the energy necessary to run the home will be produced from the sun," said Johnston, of Johnston Design Group, also based in Greenville.

The design incorporates solar panels into the garage roof. Another solar system uses clear panels over a trellis that will double as a greenhouse for the organic garden, Johnston said.

The stone house, which will be built into the side of a hill below what's now a tennis court, will use geothermal heat pumps and an automatic lighting system, he said.

The house also will be "easy on the earth" in the materials that go into it, Johnston said. For example, ceramic tile will be made from recycled glass.

And the house is designed for "healthy indoor living" by reducing use of chemicals in the building materials.

Scott Beville, president of sales and marketing for The Cliffs Communities, declined to say how much the company was donating but said it was a good way to show its commitment to protecting the environment.

"We think it's a great way to educate people in the future of how they build their homes and plan the property around their homes," he said.

Many of the vendors involved in the project were donating or discounting materials for the house, Shi said.

The formal garden between the house and the lake will be named in honor of Shi's wife, Susan.

After its year as a Showcase Home, the building will become home to Furman's environmental education programs and have space for local environmental organizations, Shi said.