

Cliffs Cottage at Furman showcases green living

By Mike Foley • STAFF WRITER • June 11, 2008

Being green and environmentally sustainable is a trip into the world of high-tech products.

From solar-panel systems to engineered wood, stocked with energy-efficient appliances and even capable of generating power rather than draining it, it's a brave new world. And that world is on full display at Furman University starting Saturday, when the Cliffs Cottage, a Southern Living Showcase home, opens for public tours and educational efforts.

While the gee-whiz technology is fascinating, what may amaze many of those who tour the house is its simple livability.

That the 3,400-square-foot Cliffs Cottage looks normal is largely due to the efforts of Greenville's Postcard from Paris designers. A trio of designers -- owner Linda MacDougal, Adrienne Fulmer and Meredith Kinsey -- spent untold hours on the yearlong project.

They relentlessly researched products and searched throughout the Carolinas and across the country for fabrics, rugs, furniture, even art and accessories, that were both sustainable and beautiful.

"I don't think it's that hard to be stylish and eco-friendly," Fulmer said. "It was hard to find pieces that were affordable."

Fulmer said about 50 percent of the furniture came from Century Furniture Co., a Hickory, N.C., firm that uses no stains, dyes or varnish. Other pieces were found everywhere from local antique stores to national discount retailers.

Everything in the home's decor, such as wool rugs, cotton-blend sheets, silk and bamboo upholstery, even the artwork -- canvas and natural paints -- is sustainable.

For the next 12 months, the home will be open for tours. After that, a charity auction will make everything in it available to the public.



Furman University president David Shi speaks Tuesday in front of The Cliffs Cottage. (GEORGE GARDNER/Staff)

OPEN HOUSE

The Cliffs Cottage at Furman University, a Southern Living Showcase Home located near the lake and the bell tower, opens Saturday for public tours. For a tour ticket or to find out more, visit www.furmancliffscottage.com.

Photo Galleries

- [The Cliffs Cottage at Furman](#)