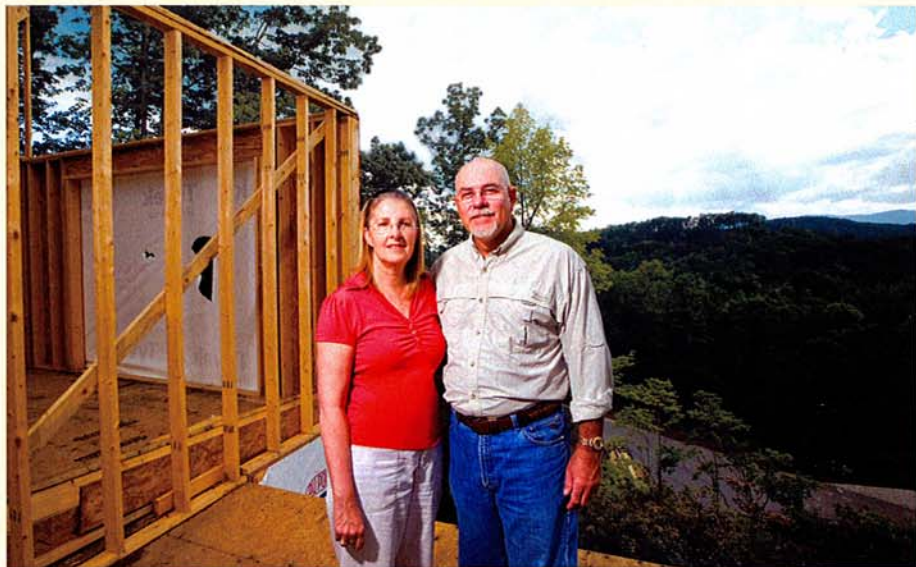


LEEDing the Way

THE CLIFFS GOES PLATINUM



Cliffs residents Ron and Sandra White have long had the goal of living a totally healthy lifestyle. Now they are making those dreams come true with the construction of one of the most environmentally friendly homes in the country.

“We had a goal to be healthier as we got older,” says Ron, who together with his wife Sandra is building a 4,600-square-foot green home at The Cliffs at Mountain Park. When completed in 2010, their home will be awarded the highest distinction available by LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)—Platinum.

The national green home rating program for individual residences was created several years ago by the U.S. Green Building Council. Through inspections at regular intervals “green” points are awarded. A new house can earn silver, gold or platinum status. A new home must be 20 percent more energy efficient than a conventional home to be recognized at the silver level. In contrast,

the Whites’ home could be 85 percent more energy efficient.

“It’s a very rigorous process,” said Scott Johnston of Johnston Design Group. “There is third party verification at each level covering a lot of different issues. But it’s not a sacrifice to be green. In the end, you improve the quality and features of your everyday life.”

“This house will be virtually allergen free,” said Sandra proudly. “This is about our life and our lifestyle. I’m not doing this for anyone else. At the end of the day, all we have is our health. This isn’t about any kind of recognition. We knew

that the next home we built would be a green home.”

Ron looks forward to the time when he doesn’t awake in the night sneezing. They’d also like to put behind them the memories of their now-grown daughter Stephanie being admitted to the hospital about once a month with breathing problems related to allergies.

The Whites dream home will cost about 12 percent more to build, but when they factor in the savings from lower energy and water bills, and tax credits for building “green,” the overall cost of their home will be about the same as a conventional home. For the Whites however, it’s all about living healthier.

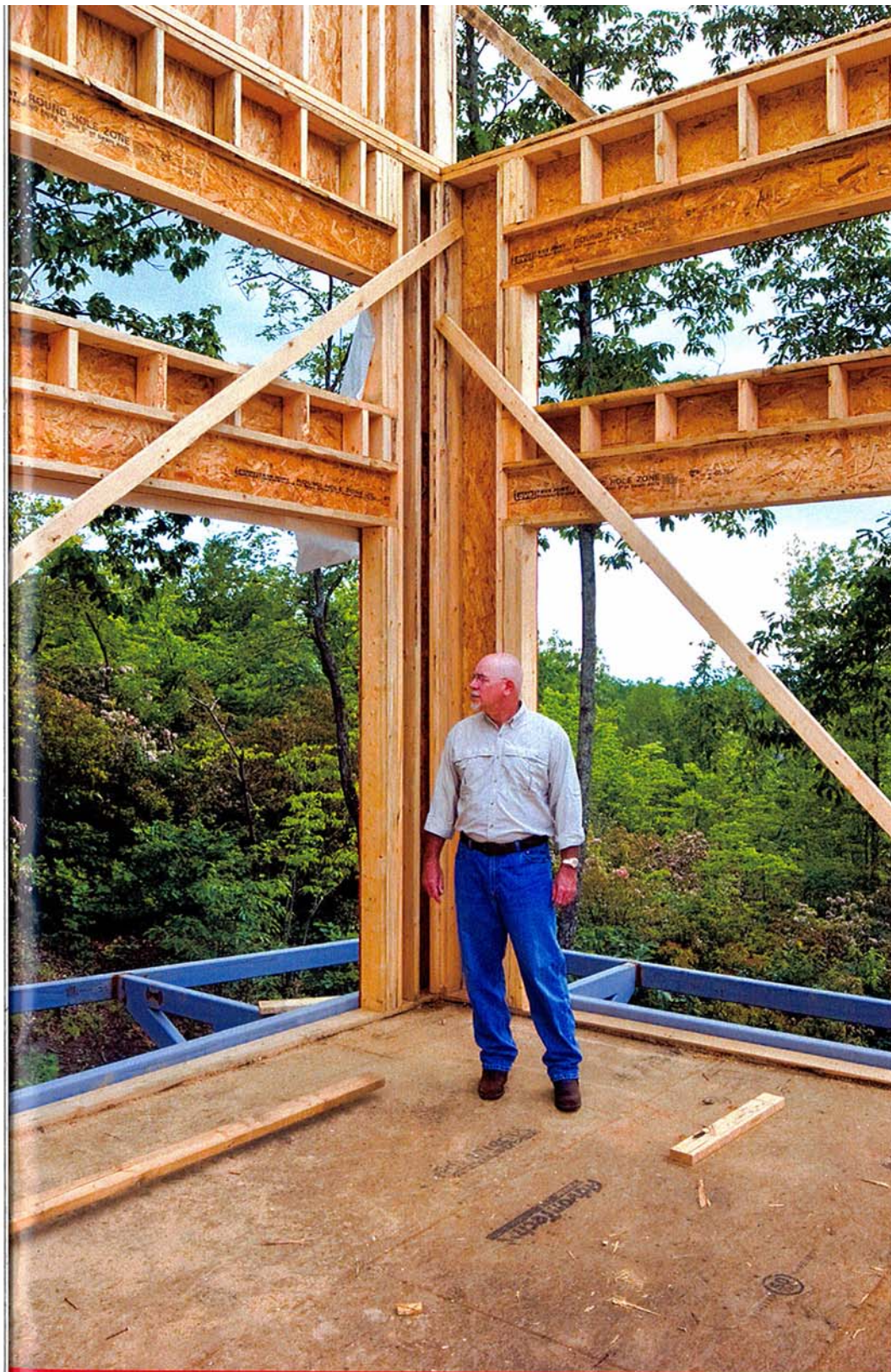
The Whites will get 80 percent of their hot water and more than half of their space heating from concealed solar thermal collectors under the roof. And they’ve gone an extra step by selecting a pure zinc roof that requires no factory finish or ongoing maintenance.

An additional unique feature is the “radiant” floors that will be warmed by solar-heated water piped through the concrete floors. Outside rainwater will be collected in an underground cistern for use in landscape irrigation and general home water use. And the fireplaces throughout the house will burn clean alcohol gel.

The Whites also will build to the highest indoor standards recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency to minimize mold, chemicals and other allergens in the home.

The Whites currently divide their time between Columbia, SC, and their home at The Cliffs at Glassy but will move to Mountain Park full-time when their LEED home is completed.





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— Ron White

“We have been committed to The Cliffs lifestyle since we bought at Glassy, and we have worked hard to aspire to Jim Anthony’s vision of personal wellness,” said Ron. “What we are doing is in line with what The Cliffs stands for. I can see Sandra and I being ambassadors of a ‘Green Building Program’ with an opportunity to promote this across the communities.”

The Cliffs has done all it can to encourage and promote green residential building. It opened The Cliffs Cottage on the Furman University campus in June 2008 to show the public what an environmentally sustainable home built to LEED standards could be.

“Over the last few years we have seen many owners incorporate sustainable green elements into their homes,” said Lucas Anthony, Vice President of Development. “It says a lot about our communities and the type of conscientious owners we are able to attract. The Whites are setting a new and healthy standard.”

The Whites have been involved with the construction of their home from the beginning. Sandra knew what she wanted in terms of design and worked with the architect to draw up the plans. Ron is the detail guy. “I’m on top of all of the design and green elements,” says Sandra. “He negotiates all of the costs.”

When completed, the inside of the home will have three bedrooms, three and a half baths and five fireplaces. The back of the house will feature two 100-square-foot windows with views of Table Rock to the west and Cleveland Cliffs to the northeast to give the house a comfortable outdoors feeling.

Sandra will have a room to pamper her dogs and Ron will have his bike shop where he can tinker with his motorcycle.

“This is the most interesting thing we have ever undertaken,” says Ron, who has inspected the building progress every chance he gets. “It is a fun project.”

In the end, the Whites’ dream home will be a healthier one as well. 