

# ADOBE ALLIANCE

a Texas non-profit educational corporation

## Eco-Workshop 2009

IN PRESIDIO, TEXAS, reachable by scenic route only,  
in the superb Big Bend Country on the Rio Grande  
at Swan House & Adobe Lab  
1 Casa Piedra Road

We trust in the future of adobe as much as in its past and present. Over half of the planet's population lives in earth structures. The most remarkable historic earth architecture stands in temperate and desert climates, including the palace and temple of architect pharaoh queen Hatshepsut, dating back to 1400 BC. Adobe is an extraordinarily comfortable, durable and healthy building material of great beauty.

The Adobe Alliance was the recipient in 2005 of the annual award given by the Adobe Association of the Southwest in New Mexico for "design excellence in earth architecture."

Our eco-environmental teaching courses date from 1998 and have been held in March and in the Fall, here in the Chihuahuan Desert. Alum Dennis Dollens wrote a book entitled *Simone Swan: Adobe Building*, available from Amazon. Our friend Catherine Wanek wrote an article on the Adobe Alliance for *Mother Earth News* issue of June 2009.

### BUILDING A NUBIAN VAULTED ROOF

**October 16 - November 1, 2009:** Against a back wall the height of an intended catenary vault, we will trace the parabola for the roof. Seated on scaffolding, we will build lovingly by hand, course by course, a soaring vaulted roof, with small adobe bricks measuring 10"x7"x1.5" Such woodless adobe roofs, revived from archaic engineering techniques, are the least expensive and healthiest form of protection from the elements. Labor intensive, they require only the earth beneath your feet, water and straw.

**Starting date is firm, ending date flexible.**

Workshops are limited to 16 participants. Hands-on teaching is offered in English and Spanish by alumnus Stevan de la Rosa of Baja California, and by Efren Rodriguez, maestro adobero from Ojinaga, Mexico. Simone Swan teaches theory, design, history and gladly discusses experiences in earth architecture based on her apprenticeship in Egypt with architect Hassan Fathy (1900-1989.) Alum Sandro Canovas, our project manager, is quick to answer myriad questions. We hope to hold a lime plaster demo with Ian Daitz.

Tuition: \$300 for 3 days or long weekend. \$400 a week. 50% discount for neighbors in Presidio and Brewster counties.

\$100 registration fee due immediately, payable to

Adobe Alliance, Inc • P.O.Box 1915, Presidio, Texas, 79845. Cell 832 277 4425

Information on lodging, meals and directions is posted on the website  
[www.adobealliance.org](http://www.adobealliance.org)