



Come LIVE LIFE in...

BLOOMhouse

UTsolarD is proud to present BLOOMhouse, our competition entry for the 2007 Solar Decathlon. It is built on five design principles found in LIFE: harvest, adaptation, community, endurance, delight.

BLOOMhouse embodies our playful personality with true Texas spirit. Louvers reminiscent of old Texan dance halls provide a simple solution for regulating heat and air circulation, and the east end of the home opens up to the outdoors,

allowing for natural flow of light, breezes and movement. Exterior sheathing performs like a layer of clothing, responding and adapting to its surroundings. The house also boasts radiant floors, an evaporative cooling water trough and thru-wall fiber-optic and LED lighting.

SAVE THE DATE!

Our construction kickoff party will be: Saturday, April 14th, 2007 at 1801 E. 51st, Austin TX

What is UTsolarD?

The University of Texas at Austin Solar Decathlon Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary research group that provides leadership in the renewable energy revolution for a more livable, sustainable future through innovations in energy-efficient building design and environmental stewardship and competes in the biennial Solar Decathlons sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Learn more at www.utsolard.org and www.solardecathlon.org

LIFEINBRIEF

UTsolarD Team Updates

Design/Build Studio

The studio has been working really hard to complete all the construction drawings, as well as initial shop drawings and templates for prototypes to speed work up once on the job site. Up Next: Build a house!

Engineering

The engineering students together with Architectural Engineers Collaborative, have completed calculations for the house. Up Next: Work on the Automatic Control System.

Logistics

On February 10th, the Design/Build studio participated in mass CPR training offered by the American Red Cross Club on the University of Texas campus. The logistics team is preparing for the arrival of building material and working on the construction schedule.

Economics

The economics team preparing to begin another round of analysis on the marketable prototype version of the BLOOMhouse. Up Next: Host an advisory meeting to critique and further develop the marketable prototype.

Team prepares for Construction

The 2007 BLOOMhouse will be made in the shade. This spring, construction on the UT entry for the 2007 Dept. of Energy Solar Decathlon will take place in a hangar at the former Robert Mueller Municipal Airport in Austin, TX. This provides a huge advantage to the team as it allows for construction unimpeded by rain or weather delays. "The hangar is such a huge opportunity for us, and will really improve our ability to build and test our design," says team member Sarah Ducote. As a team we are very excited to get started with the

build-out phase of the competition. It will be a thrill for all of us to build the BLOOMhouse and watch it take shape inside the Texas flag adorned hangar. We are so ready to build our solar-powered house!

Please join us Saturday April 14th, at 3pm for our Construction kickoff party at the hangar @ 1801 E. 51st. Come celebrate the beginning of this exciting phase of the project! We'll have food, music, and display all our design materials, as well as a scale model of the project.



The hangar, pictured above, is a fitting place to construct a truly Texan entry for the Solar Decathlon competition.

Meet the Spring 2007 UTsolarD team!



Spring team left to right: Russell Krepart, Charles Lee, William Antozzi, Andrew Danziger, Erin Sanders, Sam Covey; Structural Lead, Joeny Bui, Sam Covey, Sam Burch, Alex Miller; Team Lead, Matt Brugman; Logistics Lead, Will Grisham, Jonas Philipsen, Rafael Barajas, Saskia Fazio, Vilmar Morgan, Ben Taylor, Ana Betancourt, Matt Weaver, Witt featherston. Lower rows: Rohit Eustace, Sutton Giese, Heather Stapleton, Jill Solomon; Safety Coordinator. Bottom row: Brenda Moczogemba, Sarah Ducote, Ami Mehta, Mary Cauthen, Danielle Awai



Calendar of Events

March

03.06 NREL deliverable #2 due
03.09-11 Green Living Expo
03.12-15 Spring Break!

April

04.14 Construcion Kickoff!
04.24 Central Texas Earth Day

May

05.02-03 National AIA Convention
05.14 Clean Energy Incubator
05.19 Sustain-a-Ball
Solar Fest 2007

LIFEINFACT

In 2000, PV systems generated 844 million kilowatt-hours of electricity

Source: www1.eere.energy.gov/solar/pv_quick_facts.html

The typical U.S. family spends \$1,300 a year on home energy bills, and some of that energy is wasted. Heating, ventilating and air conditioning units are inefficient, windows leak conditioned air, and appliances devour energy.

Source: www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/info/

Team Member in Focus



Team member Sam Covey is also well travelled, having visited sustainable design projects while studying in London during Summer 2006.

BLOOMing team member! Sam Covey, Structural Engineering Lead, has been pivotal in helping the BLOOMhouse get ready for construction. Sam has been heavily involved in structural design and layout of all steel components, chassis, moment frames, pv rack & deck. He will graduate in Dec '07 with an M.S. in Architectural Engineering. Sam is currently working

for Bufkin Design and Engineering, a small local austin firm. He literally rides his bike everywhere - talk about a sustainable lifestyle! Sam secured large donations from both College House Coop and our radiant flooring sponsor, Warmboard. Sam wants to create small houses that are meant to last & utilize environmentally friendly materials and plans on opening his own firm.

COMPETITION DATES

October 12th-20th, 2007



LIFEINFOCUS

Top left: the Spring studio meets in groups **Top right:** Team attends January workshop in Washington D.C **Bottom right:** Parker Williams explains the Marketable Prototype to students at the December Design Reveal **Bottom left:** Graduate student Will Gresham looks over cost analysis with Faculty member Russell Krepert at the January Workshop

For more information about UTsolarD contact:



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Want to help the UTsolarD team? Contact us if you can help provide materials and services! We need:

Tools and equipment
Frequent Flyer miles/
donations for travel
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LIFEINGIVING

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