

Southern Living 'green' Idea House takes shape

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SANDY MUSH — Crews have framed the Southern Living Idea House at Whisper Mountain, making sure their fittings can accommodate the superinsulation techniques they'll use to ensure the house is "green" and tight.

Partnering with developers Whisper Mountain Ltd. and EcoBuilders Inc., an Asheville green builder, Southern Living is creating an energy-efficient home with detached garage and cistern "pump house." The home's eco-friendly features will include solar thermal and photovoltaic panels, radiant heated floors, a rainwater catchment and gray water system and other features.

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The walls are up, as is the plywood for the roof, said builder Rob Moody of EcoBuilders Inc. The framing was done to ensure that insulation can be placed in hard-to-fit areas, such as above windows and in corners, he said. The outside has few, if any, holes that will let heated or cooled air out.

The project is slightly ahead of schedule, Moody said, the result of "good planning and a superb project manager, Mark Piercma, and the two lead carpenters, Dan Beck and Martin Stebbins."

Construction began in October, and when completed in May and outfitted in June, the house will look as if someone lives there, Southern Living says. The LEED-certified three-bedroom, two-bathroom house will have two floors with a loft and full, unfinished basement.

The house will be open for touring in June through the end of September. Whisper Mountain is a 450-acre gated community under development off Leicester Highway near Sandy Mush.

Note: The Citizen-Times will revisit progress at the "Southern Living" Idea House until it is completed and opened to the public in May.

Local house, local talent

Southern Living selected Asheville designers and builders for its Idea House near Sandy Mush.

Architect: Bill Allison of Allison Ramsey Architects.

Builders: Rob Moody and Jack Bebbler of EcoBuilders Inc.

Interior: Traci Kearns of Alchemy Design Studio Inc.

Landscape: Jack LaQuarta of LaQuatra Bonci Associates