

2015 Nubian Vault Restoration Workshop

Restoration is under way at Swan House and Lab in Presidio, TX, but we still need your help! Come learn about adobe construction, earth and lime plasters, as we complete the construction of a Nubian vaulted roof.



The Adobe Alliance is a nonprofit group committed to help those in need of housing, by teaching the hand-crafting of woodless mud brick roofs to cover a space that shelters adobe walls, house, and a self-reliant family.

Swan House and Lab, located on 500 acres of desert in Big Bend country along the Rio Grande River, was built in 1997 by Simone Swan and Maria Jesus Jimenez. Simone studied with Hassan Fathy of Egypt (1900-1989), learning his rediscovered technique for building earthen vaults and domes without wooden formwork. She subsequently founded Adobe Alliance to spread this inexpensive technique for sustainable construction in the United States and Mexico.

In 2014, one of the vaults on the house, damaged by heavy rains, collapsed. Previously the lime and earthen plasters of the house withstood ten inches of rain a year, but changing weather patterns due to climate change have brought more rains and threatened the structures. Construction of the vault is 3/4ths complete – help us finish and plaster this historic building!

This work session is free. We have space for your tent among the cactus and a place for you at our table. Bring your camping gear- hot showers and well water are available, gratis. We expect to continue work until Nov 15, 2015.

Full project details can be found [here](#).



simoneswan@gmail.com
www.adobealliance.org
1520 casa piedra road
presidio tx 79845