



# ADOBE ALLIANCE

A Texas non-profit  
educational corporation

## ECO-WORKSHOP 2010

At Swan House & Adobe Lab in Big Bend  
Country, reachable by scenic route only.  
1 Casa Piedra Road, Presidio, Texas 79845  
C: 832 277 4425.

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. Alumnus Dennis Dollens wrote a book entitled *Simone Swan: Adobe Building*, available from Amazon. Our friend Catherine Wanek has an article on the Adobe Alliance in the June 2009 issue of Mother Earth News, and Shannon Stoney's piece on our October 2009 Nubian vault workshop is coming out in Cite, the magazine of the Rice (U) Design Alliance in Houston.

### PLASTER!

March 12-19, 2010. With lime expert Pat Taylor of Cornerstones fame, restorer of adobe cathedrals and missions, we will explore plastering and waterproofing the house in Presidio with a mix of lime, clay, sand, straw, cactus juice. We are proud of our earth plaster without lime since it has held eight years until damaged by tornado winds in september 2009; now, reinforced with lime, we count on even more wind and rain-resistant plaster.

### NUBIAN VAULT!

Participants will be introduced to the craft of building a Nubian vault using small bricks measuring 10x7x1.5". Stevan de la Rosa will teach the engineering technique. He also will direct crew and participants. Simone Swan teaches theory in earth architecture design, and will also be a student in the intricacies of lime plaster. Kurt Gardella and Sandro Canovas (from April 8 to 15) will finish the Nubian vault begun at the October symposium, illustrated here

Workshop fees for students run \$150 a day for long weekends, \$500 a week, and can be negotiated personally according to length of time spent learning hands-on at Swan House in Presidio, Texas. The registration deposit is \$200 before February 1, 2010, and \$250 thereafter. The early deposit of \$200 to the non-profit Adobe Alliance, Inc., allows us to reserve a slot for each student, thus helping to cover in advance the expenses of preparatory work. Fifty percent discount for neighbors in Presidio, Davis and Brewster counties. Interns: Maximum two at workshop, no tuition fee but registration of \$100 before February 2010. Send application to [swan@adobealliance.org](mailto:swan@adobealliance.org).



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

The Adobe Alliance, Inc., continues its curriculum of adobe design and building thanks to funding made by believers in the future of earth architecture as a healthy and structurally sound material for living. Donations are needed for running our program and are eminently appreciated.