



A sophisticated steel post stands at the center of the home's interior.



Low-maintenance and deer-resistant landscaping is another attribute of Diane Gibson's home.

STRAW HOUSE: Octagon design roughed out on a napkin in 30 minutes

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sand outside the formal garden plot and attempts to discourage the not-so-native blackberries, scotch broom, and thistles!

The house didn't start out to be as unique as it turned out. Anthony's first schematic design, a more conventional, east-west rectilinear home, would have maximized natural light if not passive solar (given neighbors' trees blocking southern exposure), but Diane wasn't enthused.

I had tagged along for the lunch meeting and when out of the blue I said, "How about a round house?" Diane's eyes sparkled with mischief. In the next 30 minutes Anthony and Diane literally laid out the rough octagon design on a napkin. A sophisticated steel post and beam framework was engineered by Tim Covert, P.E., to provide the structural integrity required for demanding wind loading and seismic requirements on the Oregon coast.

"From day one of the project, it's been just a wonderful place to be with one exception—the day when the inspector and the concrete contractor had a debate," Diane says. "Otherwise, I'd come up and have lunch with the guys, and make decisions as Tevis and Terry led me through the process."

Getting there was "A first time for everybody,"

Diane says, "for Anthony, for Tillamook County, and most of the crew." Only Ironstraw's Michael Thomas and Habib Gonzales and the Merry Mudsters had prior experience with strawbale. "Anthony provided the construction permit package to the county along with information from other counties that had approved bale construction," Diane remembers, "and we had not one question."



The thick exterior walls make for good insulation and greatly reduce outside noise.

FEATURES

- Sun tempered, 1650 sq. ft., 2 bedroom, plus den/office and 2 baths
- Strawbale in-fill exterior walls with steel post and beam structure
- Natural plasters interior
- Cement stucco exterior
- Bamboo, cork & Marmoleum flooring
- Clerestory daylighting and solar tube skylight
- Design-R-Wall cotton wall coverings
- Hydronic radiant floor heating
- Zero VOC materials
- Aquastar demand water heater
- Vinyl clad wood windows
- Roofing: copper for entry and 50-year, 100 mph composite for remainder

THE TEAM

Owner

Diane Gibson, Manzanita, Oregon

Architect

Anthony Stoppiello, Nehalem, Oregon

General Contractor

Terry Fullan and Tevis E. Dooley III
Nehalem, Oregon

Structural Engineering

Tim Covert, P.E., Portland, Oregon

Steel Structure

Sopko Welding, Seaside, Oregon

Strawbale Wall Raising

Michael Thomas, Ironstraw

Exterior Stucco

Habib Gonzales & Merry Mudsters

plus many volunteers

Bamboo & Cork Floors

Wayne Haack, Finely Finished Woodworking,
Scappoose, Oregon

Cabinetry

Dave Luis, Craftsmen Interiors, Tillamook, Oregon

Master Bath Custom Tile

Kathryn Harmon, Nehalem, Oregon

Design and installation -

Diane Gibson created the sink and special tile

Landscaping

Low maintenance and drought resistant

Maia Holliday, Nehalem, Oregon

Mortar-less Stonework

Pat Costello, Manzanita, Oregon