



Clockwise from left: Richard Boynton, Juergen Zierler, Drew Hubbell, Rex Marsh and Stephanie Cranney

the first straw

The Big Bad Wolf can huff and puff all he wants, but The Friends Center won't be coming down anytime soon. The fact that it is going up is a small

miracle. Reluctant authorities only recently issued a building permit to "green" architect Drew Hubbell 18 months after it was requested. The wait was worth

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grand illusion

Several years ago Bill and Clarice Perkins purchased a life-size terra-cotta warrior in China but couldn't find a place to display it in their condominium under construction in Coronado.

Their interior designer, Sandra Wagenaar, found a home for the warrior.

"The powder room was to be a full bath with a shower," Wagenaar says. "We had the builders change the plan and make the shower into a pedestal for the warrior. Then I had the wall painted to look like the Great Wall of China."

Wagenaar completed the theme with stone on the floor and as a wainscot on the wall and designed the glass sink's iron holder with an Asian feel.

The wall, painted by ex-San Diego artist Laura Janes, seems to defy the arched wall's dimensions as it marches toward the horizon.

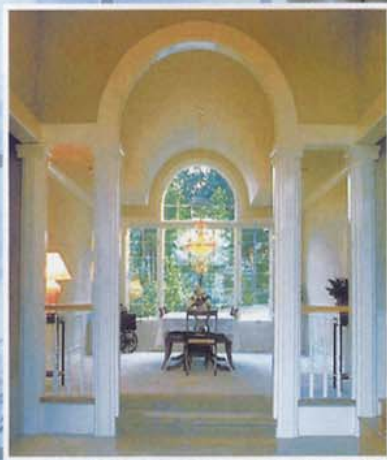


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Straw

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it: The combined Quaker church, quarters for the American Friends Service Committee and the Peace Resource Center that Hubbell has designed (on land donated by the Church of the Brethren), looks set to become the first straw building allowed in central San Diego.

Hubbell, son of artist-designer-sculptor James Hubbell, has created plans with his colleague Juergen Zierler, the project architect, for a circular, 28-foot-high meeting hall enveloped by two wings, which also protect an open patio.

"I think this will be the only straw-bale church in the country," says Hubbell. "The design inspiration was Midwestern grain silos and Spanish courtyard homes. Plus the (the clients) were very definite that it should become a demonstration building for people interested in living lightly on the planet."

The ultra-light steel post-and-beam skeleton will be clad in straw bales. The roof runoff will be piped to harvest water for gardens. Photovoltaics should create enough power for all lighting needs. Active solar heating will create hot water. The straw bales themselves will cushion the extremes of heat, cold and the noise from nearby Interstate 15, as well as provide super protection — counterintuitively — from fire.

Remarkably, the whole project will be a wood-free environment. The pergola "timber" will be made of recycled milk bottles, the countertops from recycled magazines, doors from sunflower seed shells, cabinets from soy and wheat waste. The church will even have waterless urinals.

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