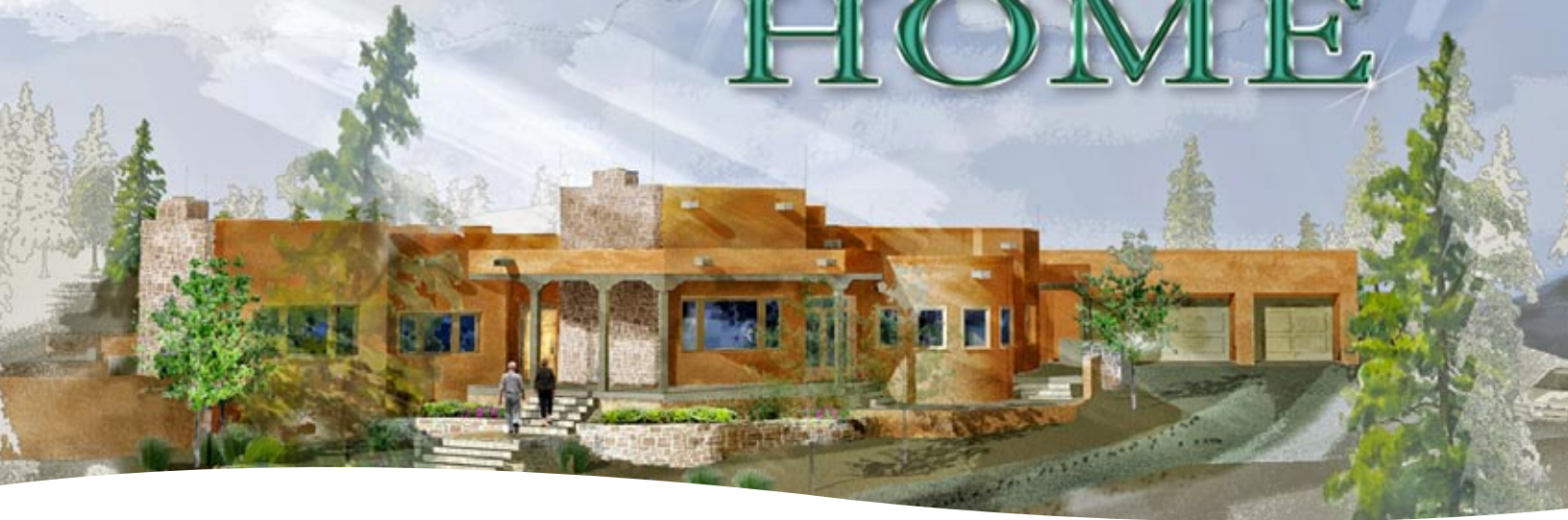


# The EMERALD HOME



## *The Emerald Home*

**"The Ultra Green, Zero Energy Jewel of the Southwest"**

July, 2010

Dear Friends,

The Emerald Home, a national model in green building and energy efficiency, was the pilot project for the new City of Santa Fe Building Codes that were introduced on July 1st, 2009. The construction process offered training to City inspectors and plan reviewers. It also served as a training platform for eighty-five realtors taking the National Association of Realtors Green accreditation Course. Outreach has included educational tours for the New Mexico Construction Industries Division, (CID), to help train State inspectors and plan reviewers. Since its completion, the Emerald Home has hosted numerous tours for a variety of organizations and individuals including: students from the Santa Fe Community College, the Santa Fe Area Home Builders Association, architects, City and State Officials, U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman, Chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, non-profit foundations, as well as thousands of private citizens who have taken this opportunity to broaden their knowledge of sustainable building practices.

The Emerald Home has achieved the highest certification of "Emerald" in all six categories of the City's new code, has a Home Energy Rating System Index of minus 2, meaning that it produces more energy than it uses. Because of the immense recycled and reclaimed content, the home has the embodied energy of a much smaller home and produces virtually no ongoing carbon footprint. The use of natural, building materials and leading edge building techniques has produced a magnificently textured expression of beauty, elegance and ingenuity.

As a recipient of a United States Green Building Council educational grant, in partnership with the Santa Fe Community College, the Emerald Home is the subject of a fifteen week, accredited course that is slated as a prerequisite for the Green Building Certification at SFCC and will serve as dual credit for High School students throughout New Mexico looking to move on to post graduation, green collar job training.

Upcoming tours include sixty Sustainable Technologies directors from Colleges and Universities throughout the United States who will be attending a conference at Santa Fe Community College (June, 2010) and over two hundred Executive Officers from Home Builder Associations from around the Country (August, 2010). The national educational outreach of these, and future, tours provides limitless potential to extend knowledge of the latest advances in sustainable building practices and building science to a broad spectrum of the U.S. population.

The creators of the Emerald Home wish to extend an invitation to the appropriate foundation, or private donor, the opportunity to maintain this magnificent educational model as an ongoing Center for Sustainability. As a result, the educational outreach can continue, while the accumulation of data and quantification of the home's performance can expand the industry's knowledge of progressive building practices. The Emerald Home would also provide a working environment for international experts to conduct design charrettes for future net-zero and sustainable community projects and a living classroom as an extension of the Santa Fe Community College Sustainable Technologies Center.

Awards... The Emerald Home is the recipient of the 2010 Sustainable Santa Fe Award for Green Building. During the 2009 Parade of Homes the Emerald Home received the Grand Green Award, Most Innovative Award and a Special Award for furthering Green Building within the industry. Designer/Builder, Faren Dancer has also been nominated for several national awards, through the Alliance to Save Energy and the U.S. Department of Energy, including the Jeffrey A. Johnson Award for Excellence in Building Energy Codes and Performance.

Thank you for your consideration in helping with this pursuit of expanding public and industry awareness, with the long range goal of moving the United States building sector toward carbon neutrality.

Sincerely Yours,

Maxine Swisa and Faren Dancer  
Sunmax, LLC and Unicopia, Inc. a public benefit 501c3