

1 December 2009

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December Web Links

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/HERS/index.html>
Learn more about HERS requirements in California.

<http://www.habitat.org>
RSVP to attend the dedication of 20 new homes built in Oakland by Habitat for Humanity East Bay.

Contact Us

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Green Education: SDA and HERS!



SDA continues to believe there is no substitute for hands-on experience. Gary Struthers has completed his first round of **HERS Rater** training: 'Alterations and Change Outs to Existing Homes.' We look forward to continuing our education of HERS topics and are preparing for the next step of actually testing the energy performance of *local existing homes* that exhibit a whole range of energy efficiency and consumption issues.

"HERS" stands for Home Energy Rating System, and is a system of performance analysis and testing that determines the energy efficiency of a home. A HERS rater will evaluate a home to ensure compliance with the California Building Code, but it has wider application in other green programs such as Energy Star Homes and Build It Green's GreenPoint Existing Home. Knowing your home's energy efficiency is always a good thing-- it can show you simple ways to make improvements. Understanding the HERS Rating program, and how to perform Energy Efficiency Tests allows SDA to better serve all of our clients by having hands-on knowledge of sustainable practices.

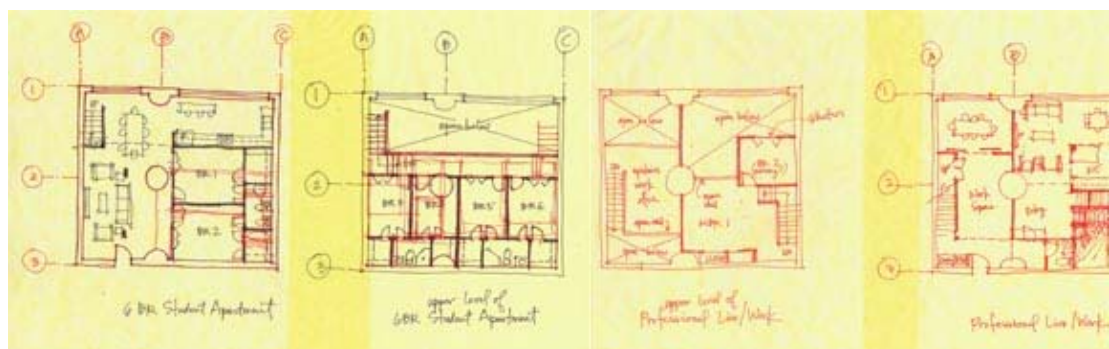
Newsflash:

Habitat for Humanity – Home Dedication this Month

On December 12th, twenty homes will be dedicated by **Habitat For Humanity East Bay** to their new owners in a public ceremony at 11am. These families have worked tirelessly alongside crews of countless community volunteers, investing sweat equity in the structures they will soon call home. This milestone represents the first stage of completion for the "Edes Avenue Phase B" development designed by Pyatok Architects. The adjacent "Edes Avenue Phase A" development was designed by SDA principal Gary Struthers. Gary continued to participate as a volunteer House Captain on Phase B, overseeing a group of volunteers building House # 13. Please RSVP online using the link to the left.

Project of the month:

Creating a New Vision for an Emeryville Loft



A loft owner in Emeryville is looking to make the best possible use of their property, and Struthers Dias Architects is providing conceptual design assistance for a variety of possible uses, including residential, commercial, and live-work. Together with the client we identified a range of scenarios about the future life of this space, and are providing them with test plans to analyze the physical feasibility of each. This will help them in working with a Realtor to determine reasonable rents for each scheme, and in working with a contractor to determine renovation costs for each as well.

Struthers Dias Architects offers conceptual design level feasibility studies for a variety of project types. Our feasibility clients range from a do-it-yourself single family homeowner looking for outside-the-box ideas for a straightforward house addition, to higher density multifamily developments seeking a balance in lower density neighborhoods.

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