

WE TEACH WE BUILD WE GIVE

THE PANGEA PARTNERSHIP



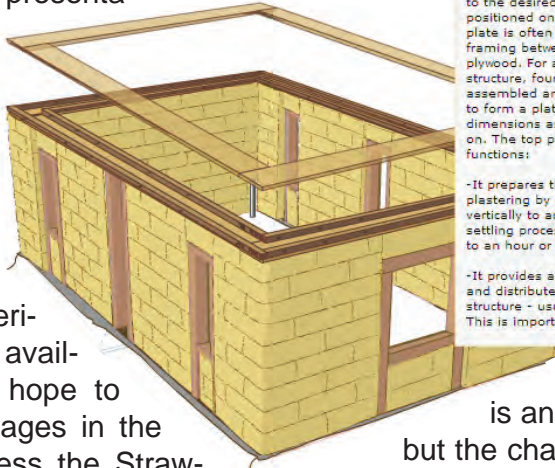
Dear Friends

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2007 Pangea newsletter. In this issue you will find some updates on where we've been and what we've been up to. We'll also introduce some exciting new online resources for learning about sustainable building and give you a glimpse of activities we'll be undertaking in the future.

Learning Online

We are pleased to introduce Pangea's interactive online demonstration of strawbale construction. This flash-based learning tool illustrates the basic step involved in building a simple load-bearing structure.

After viewing an animated presentation of the overall process from foundation to roofing, you can choose to view a more detailed illustration and read an explanation of each step.



This tool is suitable for users of all ages and experience levels. It is currently available in English, and we hope to translate it to more languages in the near future. You can access the Strawbale learning tool on the Pangea website here:

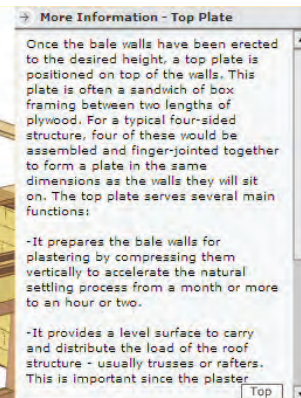
http://www.pangeapartnership.org/?page=sb_demo

Your feedback and suggestions for other online tools are always welcome. Please write to me at rstone@pangeapartnership.org with your thoughts. I'd personally like to thank Karen Lam for her dedicated volunteer work over the past 18 months developing the Flash animations.

Where's the Workshop?

In the summer of 2005 Pangea launched a partnership with the Fundacion A. Jean Brugger and Canadian Architect Douglas Cardinal to design and build a small world-class nature museum in the town of San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua. For over a year our three groups worked to overcome logistical, communications and financial barriers to realizing this project.

However, last fall it became obvious to everyone involved that it would not be possible to surmount challenges ranging from engineering to fund-raising in time for construction this winter, and we had to cancel this project. Pangea remains supportive of the Foundation's work with the young people of Nicaragua. The Foundation will continue to work toward the dream of building a museum and educational facility dedicated to use by the young people of the area. We encourage you to learn more about their projects and activities.



We would also like to thank Douglas and Bret Cardinal for all their patient work on the design of this building. They came up with a truly inspirational concept that we hope to be able to use in the future.

We've learned over the past few years that relationship building with partners is an important basis for any successful project, but the challenges of communicating internationally in the face of spotty electricity, internet and phone service remain daunting.

We have also been reconsidering the environmental balance sheet of workshops that involve lengthy plane trips for most participants. Flying is a very serious source of pollution – including greenhouse gases. The emissions from one flight to Central America can equal a year of driving or more for the average foreign participant. In future projects, we will be careful to weigh the long-term costs versus benefits and find ways to mitigate the costs. We are working to overcome these obstacles and hope to announce workshops soon.

Habla español?

Pangea is looking for volunteers with experience translating from English to Spanish. Contact us if this sounds like you, and help us reach those in need.

SPRING/SUMMER 07