

ALICE FERGUSON FOUNDATION LIVING BUILDINGS AT HARD BARGAIN FARM PROJECT FACT SHEET

THE HISTORY:

Hard Bargain Farm is the former residence of Alice and Henry Ferguson who were visionary environmentalists, farmers and artists. Hard Bargain Farm is a 330-acre high-profile property within view of our nation's capital and Mount Vernon, located along the banks of the Potomac River. Annually, more than 7,000 students and their educators participate in daylong and overnight programs at the farm that demonstrate connections between people, the natural environment, farming, and the cultural heritage of the Potomac River Watershed--with a larger goal of encouraging personal environmental responsibility.

PROJECT GOALS:

To more effectively educate and inspire students and teachers, the Alice Ferguson Foundation (AFF) has embarked on a capital project to renovate and construct new facilities. Planned facilities include: a day-use educational building, an overnight lodge with educational classrooms, and a wetlands boardwalk. In keeping with the farm's legacy of forward-thinking environmental protection, new facilities will go beyond current standards for green buildings and become child-centered "living buildings."

LIVING BUILDING QUALITIES:

The "Living Building" is a metaphor for facilities that actively contribute to the health and vitality of the natural systems to which they are inextricably connected.

As conceived, AFF's living buildings will:

- *Change with the time of day and seasons
- *Use water, wind, sun, land as architectural elements
- *Patina rather than degrade
- *Connect to, not disrupt, the web of life
- *Apply nature's fundamental laws
- *Adapt and evolve
- *Enliven those who dwell within
- *Be cooperative, rather than self-sufficient

NEXT STEPS:

AFF completed a week-long integrated design charrette in November 2006. At the charrette, consensus quickly developed to only build on degraded sites within a limited area. From this constraint emerged a poetic concept that the buildings could be interdependent and symbiotic--one embracing sun and field, another embracing woods and water. Each building will provide what the other lacks; both will be intimately connected to the environmental assets of their respective sites. *AFF is seeking partners to collaborate on these first-time living buildings.*



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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PROJECT TEAM:

Architect: M² Architecture/Re:Vision Architecture
Landscape Architect: Andropogon Associates
MEP Engineer: AKF Engineers
Owner's Rep/Process Manager: Consilience, LLC