

ADOBE PLASTER WORKSHOP

MARCH 21-23, 2003

5th ANNUAL ADOBE ALLIANCE HANDS-ON WORKSHOP IN PRESIDIO, TEXAS,
IN THE SUPERB BIG BEND OF THE RIO GRANDE ON THE TEX-MEX BORDER.



Learn to mix clay, sand, wheat straw, water, cactus juice and fresh horse manure. Plaster the mix onto adobe walls and adobe brick vaulted roofs and domes. Methods demonstrated by Jesusita Jimenez and Joaquin Valenzuela, adobe *maestros*. Theory taught by Simone Swan, designer-builder. You will end the stay with an expose on the contemporary benefits of adobe construction by historian-environmentalist Enrique Madrid, followed by a barbecue and bonfire.

We have had excellent hail and rain resistance with this plaster. This experiment onto walls, vaults and domes has held fast for 13 months. For us in our environment it has worked better than lime which requires skilled application. Clayey earth on adobe clings magnificently and, most importantly, breathes.

The site is #1 Casa Piedra Road, 9 miles east of Presidio, Texas, one mile on the right, off of Farm Road 170 East. Presidio and Ojinaga, Mexico, are twin border towns reachable by scenic routes only, 60 miles south of Marfa and 50 miles west of Lajitas on the beautiful river road 170. The weather is ideal at the end of March.

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For lodging and good quality meals on either side of the border consult the chamber of commerce (915 229 3199) or presidiochamber@brooksddata.net. Camping sites at Chinati Hot Springs (915 229 4165) and Big Bend Ranch (915 358 4444) both 55 miles away. Camping at the Swan site requires supplying your own water.

Tuition \$150 until March 15, thereafter \$200 payable to the non-profit tax-exempt Adobe Alliance, PO Box 1915, Presidio, Texas 79845, 915 229 4425. Donations are eagerly and gratefully accepted to defray costs of the *adoberos* salaries, publicity and administrative tasks.

Bring one tin bucket, tin tray, plastic gloves, plus time to enjoy the big bend.

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