

# 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ADOBE WORKSHOP AT ADOBE ALLIANCE

**November 14-6, 2005:  
Vaulted Roofing Built By Hand,  
a revived Nubian engineering technique**

*Swan House, Presidio, Texas 79845, reached by scenic route only, the Big Bend area of the Tex-Mex border.*

Learn to make a roof in the form of a catenary Nubian vault hand made out of small adobe bricks, using no wood supports. This archaic method was taught to Simone Swan in Egypt by architect Hassan Fathy. He in turn learned the technique from the *fellahin*, the village people, on the upper Nile. Vaults and domes offer the least expensive adobe roofs for dry, arid areas to be made totally out of non-industrial materials, using only the earth under one's feet. By using no wood we do not contribute to the devastation of forests.

Participants will mix mortar of earth and water, build the last two courses of the walls supporting the vault; also a back wall taller than the apex of the vault upon which to incline the bricks for the first course of the vault.

Novices will build an adobe wall, with keyed corners, plus learn to mix a waterproof plaster of clay, sand, prickly pear juice, straw and horse manure "tea," which they will apply. Instruction is given by master *adobera* Jesusita Jimenez in Spanish (with translator,) and by Simone Swan, designer of earth architecture and founder of Adobe Alliance. Speakers will be invited from the region. Accommodations are camping, RV park, inexpensive lodgings in Presidio and across the Rio Grande in Ojinaga, Mexico. Meals: in town, and catered Thai food.

Registration fee is \$250 **before October 10**, \$300 thereafter, with cheque made out to tax-exempt Adobe Alliance, box 1915, Presidio, Texas 79845.

Bring solar protection, water, work clothes, a trowel or float, a tray, notebook.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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The Adobe Alliance is a non-profit Texas corporation. Donations for expenses are appreciated.

Workshops are scheduled twice every year, Oct-Nov and Feb-Mar.

The Adobe Alliance received the 2005 award from the Adobe Association of the Southwest; the forthcoming book *Simone Swan: Adobe Alliance* by Dennis Dollens is published in the fall. The dvd *Earth Workshop* by Catherine Wanek is in the works.