

***The William and Mary Swing Hospitality Pavilion, Episcopal Diocese of California's Bishop's Ranch retreat and conference center: Respecting the Environment and Building Community***



In June 2005, the Ranch Board of Directors passed a resolution calling for the pavilion project to be green. According to Executive Director, Sean Swift, “We need to minimize the impact of the building on our immediate environment and on fossil fuel consumption, as well as maximize the asset that is our natural setting.” The goal was to construct a community center that is easy on the

environment, inexpensive to operate, and comfortable for the participants. Swing Pavilion was completed July 5, 2008. Green planning went into every aspect of the new building. The idea is to have a building that inspires and delights. They believe that the well-being that results from working and playing here will inspire creativity and renewal for the groups and individuals that use the Ranch.

The building was constructed with many green features and was designed to maximize energy efficiency. It contains an energy saving heating and cooling system, is designed to effectively utilize natural lighting and uses energy saving light fixtures. To reduce the energy required to heat and cool the building, a low energy under-floor ventilation system was installed. The energy needed comes from a solar electric system that uses photo-voltaic laminates. The walls are built of rice straw bales that provide super-insulation. Additional insulation was made from recycled cotton denim, and the roof is insulated with recycled cellulose.



The concrete foundation is made with fly ash, a coal plant waste product, which significantly reduces the amount of concrete needed. Plaster made from the red clay earth on the building site (you can't get more local than that!) has been used on the interior walls, while natural lime plasters the exterior walls. Outside, the brick paving used allows rain to percolate through, reducing run-off. Parking areas constructed of recycled plastic mesh and covered with sand and grass also reduce run-off and filter pollution.

To learn more about the William and Mary Swing Hospitality Pavilion, see <http://www.bishopsranch.org/pavilionproject2.html> and [http://www.episcopalchurch.org/3577\\_79637\\_ENG\\_HTM.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/3577_79637_ENG_HTM.htm).