

RESEARCH DEMONSTRATION HOUSE UPDATE II

SEPTEMBER 2006

THE RESEARCH DEMONSTRATION HOUSE was built in 2001 as a cooperative project with APA–The Engineered Wood Association and the Southern Pine Council. Since its inception, the demonstration house has been toured by over 5,000 visitors. The house is open to the general public during regularly scheduled tours at 2 p.m., Monday through Thursday, from April 1 to October 1. To schedule a group tour, contact the Forest Products Laboratory at (608) 231-9200 (www.fpl.fs.fed.us).



ACCESSIBILITY RAMP: Our new access ramp is also a durability project using nine different preservative-treated woods, four wood–plastic composite materials, and three naturally decay-resistant species.



MOISTURE RESEARCH: Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) is working in cooperation with Syracuse University to measure air pressure, temperature, and relative humidity in the wall cavities. The cellulose insulation is being replaced with fiberglass to match the controlled conditions of the Syracuse lab. The study includes state-of-the-art instrumentation engineered by FPL researchers to supply actual field measurements of moisture and airflow in the wall cavities.

WESTERN LARCH FLOORING: Random-length tongue-and-groove flooring, made from western larch harvested as a part of forest restoration, is installed in a bedroom in the house.



RAINWATER HARVESTING: Phase II of the cold-climate rainwater harvesting system has been installed, in addition to the existing irrigation field and rain barrels. This unit filters rainwater from the garage roof to supply the half-bath toilet and the washing machine.



BIOMAX 5: This small-scale biomass system, which produces 5 kW of electricity by gasifying wood chips or pellets, will soon provide power for the Demo House.

