

Innovative Ideas are Developing in Monterra



The 2008 *Sunset* Magazine Idea House, shown in a rendering by Monterey architect Tom Hood, is in the process of being designed on an ocean view lot in Monterey's exclusive Monterra community.

Monterra's sun-soaked hills and wildflower fields will be the backdrop for the *Sunset* Monterey Bay Idea House 2008, an eco-friendly building project led by publishing powerhouse *Sunset* magazine.

"The goal behind the Idea House project is to bring *Sunset* magazine to life in an actual home environment," says Shannon Thompson, *Sunset* home programs director. Incorporating the latest design, construction and landscaping trends, the house will reflect local architecture and capitalize on the natural beauty of the exclusive Monterey development.

Construction on the 5,600-square-foot home begins in August. The project showcases the work of the Monterey Peninsula's Thomas Bateman Hood Architects, in collaboration with Benavides Design Group, Bernard Trainor + Associates and RCA Enterprises, as well as Joseph Hittinger Designs of Palo Alto.

"We're extremely excited to be associated with *Sunset* magazine because we know the high quality they bring," says Roger Mills, member manager of Monterra Ranch Properties, LLC. "Their ideas are very innovative."

Lead architect Tom Hood says the Mills family's agricultural roots and

the open courtyards of old Monterey inspired the design. Plans call for three buildings, loosely resembling an historic farmstead. The "carriage house" includes a guest suite over a three-car garage, with an additional bay for a boat or RV. The large, gabled "barn" houses the main living area, and the "bunkhouse" holds a master suite, bedrooms, study area and laundry facilities.

The Monterra Room, a glass-encased breezeway linking the garage and main house, will feature eight-foot sliding glass doors that open to gardens and views of Monterey Bay. Design and landscaping integrate existing oak trees and native plants. Local

and sustainable products will be incorporated throughout the house.

"This project is an opportunity to get *Sunset*'s good ideas out there in an accessible format," says Hood. "It's about enhancing quality of life and supporting the natural amenities of the building site."

Upon completion in July 2008, the Monterra home will be open for 10 weekends of public tours. In exchange for providing volunteer docents, a local charity (yet to be designated) will receive a \$25,000 donation from *Sunset*. Monterra Developers will sell the house following the public showing.

Between 25,000 and 35,000 people are expected to tour the completed home, and millions more will read about the project in an associated *Sunset* magazine feature.

Past *Sunset* Idea House host cities include San Francisco, Parker, Colo., and Verrado, Ariz. Mare Island, near Vallejo, will also host a 2008 *Sunset* home.

For more information, call 831/648-9080 or go to www.monterra-monterey.com.

—Renee Brincks