

## SHAC 09 Newsletter No 3 - 19 March 08



Hi all,

Thanks for your interest in SHAC 09, the Sustainable Habitat Challenge. With SHAC 09, tertiary-led teams from around New Zealand are designing and build sustainable housing with the help of local council and industry. Projects will be completed by October 2009. Join in!

SHAC 09 is not so much a competition between teams as it is a challenge of society's perceptions and assumptions about housing. We can design, build housing, and communicate to New Zealand that more sustainable building practices are possible today.

### Team Updates

It is good to see everyone starting the Challenge!

In Canterbury, the School of Engineering is partnering with CPIT, the local polytech. CPIT builds 12 houses a year as part of their trades training. A team of engineers from Canterbury will work with designers at CPIT to develop an improved sustainable design for the building trades to build. CPIT will lead the way in training its designers and builders in sustainable thinking. [Read More >>>](#)

At Auckland University, a team from the Engineering school is working on their project, Uku. The project has started with materials research of flax reinforced earthen wall panels, social acceptance tests and has moved into design and implementation recently. The house incorporates aspects of passive heating, using low-cost local resources in the structure, using local non-technically skilled labour, creating a design guide that removes the need for professional services in building design / consenting process and using the thermal mass of earth walls to regulate and maintain adequate indoor temperatures. This team is further along with their project, and have already started building.

What is going on with your team? Send an update to [updates@shac.org.nz](mailto:updates@shac.org.nz)

### Sponsors

We are in talks with a development firm to provide workshops and consulting time to help our teams. This is a great opportunity for the company to interact with new designers, sharing skills, making contacts, and meeting potential recruits. An international engineering firm has also expressed interest in becoming a SHAC Supporting Partner, providing valuable interaction with teams, sponsoring a prize, and supporting this challenge.

In addition, a number of regional suppliers and professionals have contacted local teams with offers of support. From solar hot water heaters, and fittings, to Home Energy Rating Scheme Assessments (HERS). Recently I talked with Neil Mcleod of the Dunedin City Council. He is keen to help the Dunedin team:

"In 2004 the Building Act, section 3D actually states that ultimately buildings are designed, constructed, and able to be used in ways that promote sustainable development. So it is right there, and we are in agreement with the government to support that."

[Read more >>>](#)

## Develop your team proposal

Now teams are working on their proposals and looking for potential funders and people to fill out their team capabilities. SHAC can help connect teams with others interested in your region, including Professional Engineers.

Make sure to fill out our "[Intent to Develop a Proposal Form](#)" now to enable this assistance. We can reimburse up to \$500 of costs towards the creation of your proposal. For details about what needs to be in your proposal, download the form "Proposal Submission and Team Registration Form." [Download Forms >>>](#)

## Join in

I am scheduling times to visit teams in your region in the second week of April. Please let me know of scheduled team meetings during that week.

## Tidbits

Leigh Blackall of the Dunedin team has sent some advice about setting up a blog for your team. [Read More >>>](#)

Nils Larsson, a contributing consultant on our team is the Executive Director of the International Initiative for a Sustainable Built Environment, or iiSBE. There are a number of resources on the site. [Read More >>>](#)

Have anything to contribute? Send it to [tim@shac.org.nz](mailto:tim@shac.org.nz). This counts as your judged contributions to the design community.

## SHAC 09 NEWSLETTER #3 IS SPONSORED BY McConnell Property

McConnell Property is one of New Zealand's largest master plan developers. The organisation's projects focus on the greater Auckland region and include commercial, mixed use and residential developments. It is fantastic for McConnell Property to be involved in the Sustainable Habitat Challenge and to offer their support.

## About SHAC 09

SHaC09, the Sustainable Habitat Challenge, is a national project for collaborative, tertiary led teams to design, develop, and build sustainable housing in their local community by October 2009. Teams will bring to their communities ideas and methods for healthy, low energy, low resource housing. The designs will offer an improvement on how we live today, and show sustainable living to be practical and desirable. By involving student and staff designers, architects, planners, builders, engineers, and others, and pursuing a housing development from concept, to project development, to consenting and building, the challenge will prove practical a number of sustainable designs.

SHaC 09 is a project initiated by the Otago Polytechnic and funded through the Minister for Environment's Sustainable Management Fund

## Feedback

Comments or questions about SHaC 09? We'd love to hear from you. Give us a call at 0800 SHaC 09, or email [tim@shac.org.nz](mailto:tim@shac.org.nz)