

Progress Report

Factor 9 Home: A New Prairie Approach

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1. Construction is now well underway. In figure 1 a photo of the basement is presented. Visible in the photo are the open web floor trusses for the basement floor, flooring plywood, and the structural insulated panels for the basement walls. (Yet-to-be-installed panels are resting on the floor.) Rogne Construction of Regina is the General Contractor. The house is located at 7335 Wascana Cove Place in Southeast Regina.



Figure 1. Factor 9 Home Under Construction—June 16, 2006
Photo Credit: Rolf Holzkaemper

2. Photos of the construction are available on the www.factor9.ca web site. A total of 18 photos of construction along with some of the specialty items for the house have been placed on the web site.

3. Construction was delayed somewhat because of intense May and June rains. However, it is anticipated that construction will be complete by September 2006.

4. A monitoring proposal for the Factor 9 Home has been submitted to Natural Resources Canada to allow for detailed monitoring of the energy and water flows in the house, along with indoor air quality parameters such as ventilation rate, relative humidity and carbon dioxide. A National Instruments Field Point Data Logging System is proposed. The data logging system will monitor the active solar system energy production, the space heating and water heating usage from the solar system, the waste water heat exchanger performance, and the amount of auxiliary energy used for space and water heating. For cost reasons, the electrical usage of the appliances will be monitored using manual meters. A relatively new and low-cost piece of technology called The Energy Detective™, which provides a user-friendly readout of the purchased electrical consumption from the utility, will be used to provide instant feedback to the residents on their use of electricity.

Next steps

1. Instrumentation for the monitoring will be installed at the time of the rough-in ductwork, plumbing and electrical.
2. Preparations will start for the Grand Opening and Open House to be held in September 2006.