

Jennifer & Barry, part 1

March 2004

My husband and I are the first purchasers of the LV Home. We reside in Richmond, Virginia. Barry is a musician (accordion & percussion). I am an architectural photographer. We have four children (17, 11 and 3 year-old twins).

Barry & I both have a background in construction. Barry was renovations carpenter for over 20 years and I have experience as a heavy construction surveyor and carpenter's helper.

For several years, we have been interested in modern prefab architecture. Barry gave me a copy of Arieff & Burkhardt's book *PREFAB* for Christmas, 2002. When I saw Rocio Romero's LV Home, I knew if we ever built a prefab house, it would be the LV Home. I had also just finished documenting a 1960's house designed by Richard Neutra...I became enthralled by modernity.

For 6 months after seeing the LV Home in *PREFAB*", I kept trying to think of how Barry & I could build Rocio's design if it were to reach the mass market. Finally, we were lucky enough to sell a small piece of land we owned outside of Richmond. We decided to purchase property in the Virginia mountains specifically for the LV Home. It took us four months to find a piece of land. Most of the properties for sale were in small subdivisions...and with that comes the dreaded restrictions. We came across "no flat roofs", "no metal siding" and "square footage must exceed 1200sq.ft." But we finally found a beautiful piece (6.2 acres) in Amherst County.

Once Rocio's website advertised that the LV Home was available, I requested rough bids for the LV Home's roof and windows from different installers. After figuring a rough estimate for the LV Home construction, we applied for financing. We chose to finance in a way that the lender would not be involved with the construction since the LV Home is partially prefab and is not a traditional home. We were approved and I contacted Rocio.



Barry and I decided that we could build the LV Home ourselves and use it as a family vacation home and rent it as an "alternative" mountain retreat. To keep construction costs down, Barry will act as the general contractor and we will sub-out the work in which we are not experienced. My brother Kevin owns a framing business in North Carolina. He has agreed to do all of the framing (subfloor & kit) for vacation time in the house. We have also contacted friends who have different construction skills, trading labor time for vacation time.

— Jennifer

