

Jennifer & Barry, part 7

July 24-25, 2004

Saturday morning, we arrived at the building site around 9 am. Jamie, another brother of mine who is a tugboat mechanic, came with Kevin to help out with the final phase of framing. Corey Barnes (UVA architectural student) showed up as well to volunteer. The weekend before, Barry and I had carried most of the faux wall panels down the hill and inside the house for dry storage. There were three large panels left to be carried down. Jamie made a sled out of the Galvalume shipping pallet. He and Barry pulled the remaining (and heaviest) panels down to the house.

We installed the tallest faux wall panels first onto the Simpson strong walls, then proceeded to install the panels on the back of the house where the large sliding doors/windows will be. After lifting the parapet panels onto the roof, Kevin measured the parapet height on each panel, nailed a 2x4 onto the panel, and we were able to hang the panel onto the side of the house while Kevin nailed each into place.

Kevin, Jamie and Corey installed the remaining faux wall panels and sheathed most of them with OSB while Barry and I went into the crawlspace to attach A35s to the posts, girders and concrete pads.

Sunday, Kevin and Jamie finished sheathing in the house while Barry and I finished installing the A35s. We then wrapped the house in Tyvek. The roof membrane will be installed in 2-3 weeks, so we needed to cover the roof to keep the plywood and parapet walls dry. Kevin and Jamie built a skeletal pitched roof. We covered and nailed tarps over the skeletal frame.

The windows are being installed this week and part of next week. Barry will be installing the downspouts as well as the rough plumbing in the next week or two.

We are in the process of finding a subcontractor who will install the heating and air conditioning system. My uncle (an architect in Denver) designed an HVAC system that will use the crawlspace as the return plenum for our LV Home so "the whole house will breathe". We chose not to vent the crawlspace and have already insulated the interior walls with 2" rigid insulation board. Installing this type of HVAC system will be less labor intensive and will use less materials. Plus, our floors will be warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

Also during the next couple of weeks, I will be starting a blog on livemodern.com. The blog will contain most of the information posted here as well as other info and detailed costs per construction phase.

— Jennifer

