

Omeness's

Stories of People
and the Land



BIG SUR
LAND TRUST

Carver + Schicketanz

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Rob Carver



Architect Rob Carver says he was not always a friend of the Big Sur Land Trust. As a long time property rights advocate, he frequently found himself on the opposite side of BSLT conservation issues.

That relationship has changed dramatically in recent years. "I believe in the past the Land Trust was often focused on land to the exclusion of people," he says. "In the last five years, there has been a huge shift in thinking, a broadening of scope. Now it's about the community...plants, animals, people, it's all one world. That's an enlightened viewpoint. So I have moved from enemy to friend."

Consequently, the architectural firm of Carver + Schicketanz is donating in-kind planning services to the Land Trust for future refurbishing of Glen Deven Ranch.

Both Rob and Mary Ann Schicketanz, principals of the firm, have extensive backgrounds in green architecture. Their practice has been honored with numerous awards and coverage by such prestigious media as Dwell magazine, the New York Times and National Geographic TV Channel.

A native of Austria who has lived in the United States for more than 20 years, Mary Ann has seen the evolution of the green building movement from two perspectives. The emphasis in Europe, she says, was initially on health, while green design in the U.S. was driven by energy conservation. She is encouraged by the proliferation of green products and publications touting green materials and care of the earth. "Also, it's now economically viable to be green," she says.

Rob came to California from New York 36 years ago. He was introduced to solar energy concepts as an environmental design student at the University of California-Berkeley, and he has been committed to alternative energy use ever since. "Why wouldn't you orient a building to take advantage of the wind and sun?" he says.

These specialists in sustainable architecture point out that several area firms have created exemplary projects that integrate homes into the landscape. They also note that many "ordinary" measures can be adopted in buildings of any size to protect the environment.

Planning for BSLT's Glen Deven Ranch will focus on future uses related to science, the arts, conservation and youth. "Brainstorming with 15 to 20 people from diverse backgrounds is exciting," Rob says of the project. "This is a community coming together to accomplish something."

