



Center: Tom Reid

# Lean Green Building Machine

Small is the new green

Here at *rediviva*, we have long been cautious of accepting a “green” stamp of approval as an excuse for consumer gluttony. But **Green Home Construction** piqued our curiosity with its seemingly self-defeating concept of “small is the new green.” And not only does this intrepid group of idealists build small homes, but they also have the power to disappear McMansions completely. Green Home Construction worked in partnership with Re-Use Consulting and the Gorge Rebuild-It Center to complete the Cape Horn Deconstruction Project. Presto! Say goodbye to 14,000 square feet of residen-

tial buildings on Cape Horn and hello to more Gorge hiking trails.

But can home construction ever truly be in tune with the environment both aesthetically and technologically? This is the question that Tom Reid and Steven Todorov of Green Home Construction are trying to answer. They merge the latest technology with an artistic sensibility to “treat the house as a system where each feature is designed to fully integrate with the next.” From straw bale homes to buildings made from recycled lumber, Green Home strives to create living spaces that are beautiful and lasting,

as well as economical and easy on the Earth. Construction and deconstruction are just two of the services offered by the company, which also handles weatherization and installation of solar systems.

Here in the Columbia Gorge, designing smaller homes that use less energy to build and less money to maintain makes particularly good sense. We all want to live in a way that balances comfort, energy efficiency and impact on the environment. Green Home Construction is a good resource for anyone ready to take a step in that direction. **r**