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Page: 1C

Southern Living to build Idea House in Leicester

STAFF REPORTS

STORY

FROM STAFF REPORTS

LEICESTER — Southern Living has selected the Whisper Mountain development, just outside Asheville, for the site of its eco-friendly 2008 Idea House.

Whisper Mountain is a 450-acre gated community under development off New Leicester Highway, near Sandy Mush. Home sites range from 1-10 acres with prices starting at \$69,900 and running up to \$275,000.

Partnering with EcoBuilders Inc., an Asheville green builder, and developers Whisper Mountain Ltd., Southern Living will create a farmhouse-style home with complementary outbuildings — including a detached garage, cistern "pump house" and more. The home's eco-friendly features will include solar thermal and solar photovoltaic panels, rainwater catchment and gray water system, radiant heated floor, tankless water heater, use of recycled metal, native species landscaping, Energy Star appliances and more.

"We're thrilled to team with Southern Living and Whisper Mountain on this exciting project," said EcoBuilders President Rob Moody.

"This will be the perfect marriage of design, technology and craftsmanship, resulting in a revolutionary home that minimizes environmental impact while maximizing comfort and savings."

The house will be open for public tours June-August, with more specific dates to be announced later. Once the house closes for public tours, it will be for sale and marketed through EcoHouse Realty.

The house is being designed by Bill Allison, of Allison Ramsey Architects of Asheville. The interior designer for the project is Traci Kearns, of Alchemy Design Studio, also of Asheville.

EcoBuilders ([www.the ecobuilder.com](http://www.theecobuilder.com)) was founded in 2003 by Rob Moody, an environmental science educator in Haywood County.

On the Net: www.ecohouserealty.com