# Green House Rises on Lafayette Hillside

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Milovic, a mechanical engineer, and his wife Carolyn are the owners/builders of the very functional structure, with input from the city's Design Review Commission.

A significant part of the challenge of the sloping site was to engineer the structure for adequate drainage and meet city standards for runoff. "Nothing was easy," says Milovic. Piers are sunk into to the earth and he jokes that they've created a dam with the amount of concrete required to secure the foundation. In addition, they needed to carefully work around existing mature oak trees. At some point when it eventually rains, the home will "harvest" 50 percent of the water that falls on the metal roof; it will be directed to a cistern at the base of the structure and can be used on landscaping.

Milovic has a blog where he posts regular updates on construction. Colorful pictures and a perky narrative illuminate many milestones along the way to the finished project, including the change of shade of the exterior's green paint. Readers can learn about the "wonderful world of spray foam," which is similar to robust shaving cream and is a top-of-the-line insulating material, and that walking on the newly finished metal roof is a bit slippery, "but man, it's going to be real easy to clean."

As with any project, there is always something that doesn't quite go according to plan. May rains brought standing water to the site, and when combined with the recently installed subfloor that was guaranteed not to swell, produced – you guessed it – swelling.

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*This specially grooved metal roof will harvest approximately 50 percent of the water that hits it, diverting it to a cistern below.*

*Heavy roof trusses and mature trees make for a tricky installation.*