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Hempcrete 'Demonstration Wall' Built in Boulder

Boulder's Hempcrete Wall at 15th and Quince Streets Built May, 2022





By Jean Lotus

A natural builder has constructed a hempcrete wall on his Boulder, CO property hoping the project will be a destination for the hemp-curious who want to see hemp building materials in action.

Architect Scott Rodwin constructed the 5-foot hempcrete privacy wall on his corner property at 15th and Quince Streets in the Nomad Cohousing neighborhood he helped found 25 years ago on Boulder's north side.

"We wanted something specifically, that was really beautiful on this very prominent street corner, something other than just a plain stucco wall or another wood fence," Rodwin told HempBuildMag.

Eamonn McNaughton of Rocky Mountain Hemp Build teamed up with fellow Front Range hempcrete builder Phelan Dalton of Hemp Building Company to supervise the project over several weeks with teams of volunteers to help cast the hempcrete wall *in-situ* around the corner lot.

"Eamonn and his Rocky Mountain Hemp Build team did an amazing job! I loved working with them and hope to do so again in the future," Rodwin said in an email.

Rodwin, who has built several straw bale homes, said he was very interested in observing hempcrete firsthand, but the fact that most hemp homes are not open to the public was a problem.

The wall is a "demonstration piece," Rodwin said. "The biggest benefit and the main reason we're doing this, this is a giant billboard for the beauty of hempcrete wall building, because now everybody can see it any time," he added.

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Colorado-grown hemp hurd was used in the project provided in super-sacks from the San Luis Valley, processed by Global Hemp Processing. Builders used 10 lb. bags of Type S hydraulic lime in a one-to-one mix with hemp hurd. Because the wall is not being used for insulation, builders also used a small portion of Portland cement in the mix.



Phelan Dalton (L) and Eamonn McNaughton (R) provided volunteer supervision for the construction the hempcrete wall in Boulder. Photo by Jean Lotus



A hempcrete privacy wall with stratified pigments was constructed this month in Boulder by a team of volunteers at a cohousing development on the city's north side. Photo by Scott Rodwin

The wall will eventually be capped with flagstone to keep rainwater off.

A stratified look of different earth tone colors was achieved with orange, yellow and maroon pigments mixed in with the hempcrete.

The stratification was a natural echo of the geological layers in the “hogback” foothills of the Rocky Mountains, Rodwin said.

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The camaraderie in the hemp building world was observable as other hemp builders traveled to help with the build.

Angel Romero, Jr., founder of in Dodge City, KS-based SucGoCrete was participating that weekend in a Lucha Libre wrestling event in the suburbs of Denver.

“I needed to pick up some supplies from Phelan [Dalton], so I knew I couldn’t miss this,” Romero said.

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