

## Andy Gutti and Sherri DeRousse Gutti Sustainable Design Fund

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The Andy Gutti and Sherri DeRousse Gutti Sustainable Design Fund supports the MU Department of Architectural Studies because of its focus on sustainable design. Sustainable design is the art of designing meaningful places to comply with principles that are economic, social, and ecological in meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable design is a desired state of ecological integrity over time.



Andy Gutti and Sherri DeRousse are the owners of the Bear Creek Prairie in Northeast Columbia, Missouri and are devoted to building techniques that use ecologically sensitive development and building methods. They wanted the beauty of this never-cultivated land to be preserved so they set out to find a way to build homes while protecting a significant portion of the site. After considerable research, including visits to numerous communities around the country and input from ecologists, city planners, environmentalists and neighbors, Andy and Sherri decided the goal was worth pursuing. Andy and Sherri worked with faculty Ben Schwarz and Mike Goldschmidt in studio coursework and a charette during which students were asked to follow the guiding principles of a “Conservation Community.”

### **Guiding Principles**

Preserving much of the natural landscape while building homes was the primary goal. Of equal importance was the desire to design a neighborhood that would encourage interaction among

the residents. The concept of a "Conservation Community" provides the framework to accomplish these goals. In conservation communities the homes are generally clustered around common green spaces that everyone can use and enjoy. This encourages interaction among residents while retaining use of wooded and open areas for trails, gardens, gathering areas, and other amenities.

Another important guiding principle was energy conservation. With energy costs increasing rapidly, energy efficiency becomes vital. Through the innovative use of certain materials and techniques energy cost savings accrue throughout the life of the home. Even simple no-cost building techniques such as proper solar orientation can help reduce overall heating and cooling costs.

Reducing or eliminating negative environmental impacts during and after site development and construction also guided the design of Bear Creek Prairie. This is accomplished with "low impact development" (LID) techniques. Rather than collecting and conveying stormwater runoff through storm drains and pipes, LID-designed sites use natural vegetation and small-scale treatment systems to treat and infiltrate stormwater runoff on-site, close to where it originates.

For more information, see <http://bearcreekprairie.com/aboutus.html>