

Cross Section

BUILDING NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



Drawing: Courtesy of Chief Architect

Affordable design meets high-tech housing technology

PATH
concept home

ONLINE EXTRA

For up-to-the-moment details on the PATH Concept Home, visit FineHomebuilding.com, where you'll find PATH house video coverage as well as Fernando Pagés Ruiz's blog documenting the construction process.

Fernando Pagés Ruiz, a frequent contributor to *Fine Homebuilding* and the author of *Building an Affordable House* (The Taunton Press, 2005), is getting a unique opportunity to integrate affordable-home design features with cutting-edge construction technology. In December 2006, he broke ground on the first PATH Concept Home, a project sponsored by the Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing, a public-private program of the U.S. Department of Housing

and Urban Development and the housing industry.

"I build homes for real people," Ruiz says. "These families deserve the best quality, with long-term durability, low maintenance, and manageable utility bills. PATH's Concept Home is designed to achieve these goals. It's packed with leading-edge technology aimed at improving construction efficiency and building performance."

Innovative features include preassembled insulating concrete forms for foundation walls

(photos above), panelized floor framing, soy-based spray-foam insulation, wireless electrical switches, and movable interior walls. Designed by Torti Gallas and Partners, the 2000-sq.-ft. home will meet Energy Star, Environments for Living, LEED for Homes, and Fair Housing Act accessibility criteria. The house is in Omaha, Neb., on a corner lot donated by the city. Look for articles on the PATH house in upcoming issues.

—Tim Snyder is executive editor at *Fine Homebuilding*.

FAST FOUNDATION



Done in a day. Preassembled foam forms for basement walls were erected, filled by a concrete pumper truck, and screeded level in a single day.