

StarHouse Brief History of Beginnings

1. On the evening of 30 May 1990, seven people came to the StarHouse to open it ceremonially. The construction had been completed, and then all lay in wait as this group prepared the space for presentation to the unseen beings who assisted from inception. Each person took up a place at one of the seven directions (North, South, East, West, Above, Below, and Within), and spoke their piece. It was very much like pushing the start button on a power generator. The whole place began to hum. At that time, we did not realize that the Sun lay exactly atop the star Aldebaran, which we have discovered from more recent research to be the Eye of the Bull (Taurus), the Life Star, the Origin of the "I AM" of Humanity, research which was done years later. Sound fantastic? This connection is based on research that you can find at www.StarWisdom.org.

2. All Seasons Chalice: Where did this name come from? When the StarHouse existed only as a design idea, the name of an organization to oversee its use was discussed by a group that had been meeting about esoteric science (a.k.a. The Perennial Wisdom, the Ageless Wisdom, etc.) for a few years. Since the science of astrology was so important in the twelve-fold design of the StarHouse, we knew about the acronym ASC, an abbreviation for the term Ascendant, that is, the point in a star-chart where the horizon lay at the moment of any important event such as your birth. As this was a sacred container (*chalice*, with all of the tradition around that word relating to the Grail), nestled in Nature, relating to the teaching of the annual seasons, and as it had the immediacy of what streamed in as fresh material from the horizon, we chose "All Seasons Chalice".

3. Each of the twelve posts was chosen from the two hundred contiguous acres. First, the engineers required that the tree had to be large at the base and large also 15 feet up from the base. Next, the tree had to have made some kind of calling to those who were seeking these trees. We roamed the woods listening for those calls. Once the trees were identified, a group of five spent time with each tree, in a meditative state, completely open to reception of imagery and words – to messages of any kind. You see, we had to identify the tree's association with the planned twelve-fold zodiac. Which tree had a more Taurus nature? Which tree had a more Sagittarius nature? Gemini was the easiest, as the tree actually forks, showing an aspect of The Twins. The fruits of meditation of the five-some were gathered together, and it became readily apparent where each tree ought to go.

4. After we knew the destination of the trees in the forest, that is, which post they would become, and after a brief ceremony of earnest thanks, the trees were felled. Then a large team of people moved the trees by hand to the site of the construction. To each tree we attached five and sometimes six cross pieces. Three were log carriers from Snow & Nealley in Bangor, Maine, who make quality forestry tools. The other two or three were stout pieces of wood tied to the tree. On either side of each crosspiece a person would stand and lift right into their center – no leaning over. On a command from the leader, a role that shifted, the tree lifted. It's astonishing how much a group of people can accomplish. Assisting were many who brought mint-scented water, and who made a lunch for everyone. From remote places and down steep slopes, we were able to bring all the trees to the site. Before felling them we had marked the orientation of the tree to the compass points, which we repeated when we set the trees vertically in the StarHouse. In other words, each tree was magnetically oriented in the same way as it had grown. Every organism has tiny traces of magnetite in its flesh. Birds have been shown to navigate from an understanding of the magnetite in their brains – that, and an understanding of the constellations, help them find their way. Indeed, human brains have several million tiny particles of magnetite, thought by some to explain the good sense of direction of some people.

5. "The building already exists in spiritual realms. It is our responsibility to bring it down as faithfully as possible." Thus spoke the architects for the StarHouse, Philip Tabb and Robert Armon. This would be called an idealistic or Platonist world-view, and definitely differs from the common desire of architects to show off their capabilities by putting their stylistic stamp on whatever they design, often in conflict with the homeowner's needs. The StarHouse architects were here to serve the process. Intense periods of meditation occurred – every joint, every connection, every decision about size and shape, every choice of material. All these were meditated upon to find the right proportions, angles, dimensions, and substances. There was no plywood used in the entire structure. We chose not to use laminated timber; we used real timbers, whole trees for the posts, of course, and for the beams too. Every piece of wood, every custom-made metal joiner, and every nail and screw were sung to, in the mornings before the work began. Songs of greeting and empowerment and unification into the whole.

6. Polaris: We sited the building exactly to the true directions, that is, to the North Pole, South Pole, due East of Spring Equinox sunrise, and due West of Spring Equinox sunset. You can do this any day by tracing the shadow thrown by a stick in the ground – the ends of the shadow will give you an East-West line, on any day. We did this. To check this alignment, and to relate our measures to the heavens further out, we sited to the star Polaris, which is half a degree from absolute North. Michael Moore did this in his career as a surveyor. Little did he know that years later he would study to become a Minister of All Seasons Chalice Church, and then lead ceremonies in the building that he helped to site. You can still see Polaris on any clear night. Step up on the stone directly across from the StarHouse entry, the stone on the northern edge of the earth mound (the "kiva mound"). As you look from this perch over the prow of the entry area (the "Vesica"), you will see Polaris just poised above the point of that prow. It's always there, day and night, though most people (not all!) cannot see it during the day.

7. Concrete: As the structure is a "tension ring," the weight of the roof is trying to press the posts outward. So we needed to have strong connections between the beams. Also the posts had to be set upon a very sturdy foundation, not just a pile of stones, attractive though that was. Concrete is a challenging substance that can be summarized as "confused, spiritually confused" – it has no sense of direction or polarity. Confusion can suck away delicate spiritual energies that were already building at the site. Guided by a meditation, we obtained amethyst from Brazil, rose quartz from Southern Colorado, clear quartz from Arkansas, and milky white quartz from the StarHouse property. In a ratio of 1:2:3:4, we weighed out a total of a hundred pounds of these stones, and had them crushed into a fine grain. We sprinkled this mix into the foundation walls as they were being poured. We also added three whole circuits of copper wire, as well as many copper wire pieces. The three circuits were grounded to the outside in spirals toward the four directions. Since then, we have learned from people who make fine medicines in Stuttgart, Germany, that crushed crystals make the finest medicine. As crystal is susceptible to imprint, we meditated upon them for some weeks before sprinkling them into the foundation. This has substituted a sense of glowing radiation of warmth for what is often in buildings experienced as a sucking confusion.

8. In March of 1990, the StarHouse construction had only two weeks to completion. Then a conflict arose in the building crew. Throughout the construction the agreement had been that the process of construction was as important as the final use, that is, that the means and ends should be congruent with each other. Both should have a clarity, openness, and alignment with the purposes of the space. We named our standard: "Stop the world," in other words, when something difficult happens, don't sweep it under the rug, but bring it out into the rest

of one's world – take it seriously, and stop everything until the conflict is addressed and resolved. Other conflicts had been brought to the Building and Design Group of five people, and each time a compromise had been found. Not this time. In many projects coming to completion, there arises a kind of impatience to get it done. At the same time, there are the delays on the little things that loom large because the crew is looking for other work, and already promising their time elsewhere. This can lead to extra frictions. We decided that the friction was not something that could be ignored. Though tempted to press onward, we realized that we were violating our fundamental value. So we sent everyone home. We locked the door, not knowing what would happen next. We trusted that our value on positivity and congruence had taken us this far but didn't know how the situation would resolve.

9. Two weeks shy of completion, we knew that we had to let the whole place rest. We locked the door and let the StarHouse sit for two weeks. The five main people on the construction crew had found other work. After two weeks we visited the StarHouse to meditate, and to begin a process of listening for what we should do next. Meanwhile, the two people on the construction crew who had been at loggerheads with each other had seen each other, and discussed the source of the disagreement. Things calmed down between them as they understood better their different points of view. Also, the antsy quality of the final days of any job simply relaxed. After four weeks, the entire situation felt differently. We called everyone on the crew and found out to our amazement that they were all available. They had gone to do little jobs that they had promised other people, jobs that they had postponed as the completion of StarHouse had taken longer than expected – a common occurrence for any construction. The pressure relieved, the workmen were overjoyed to return to finish this job. And it did take only two more weeks to finish.