

RD Lawrence Place, Minden Museum and Cultural Centre



RD Lawrence Place was designed by Chris Magwood and Ingrid Cryns, and built by the students of the 2007 Sustainable Building and Design program at Fleming College, under the direction of Chris Magwood and Jen Feigin.

Located at the Minden Museum and Cultural Centre in downtown Minden, Ontario, the project was funded by the Municipality of Minden Hills. RD Lawrence was a well-respected conservationist and author, and his collection of works and memorabilia were donated to the museum. The building honours RD Lawrence with displays about his life and times and programming about nature, the environment and conservation.

Helical pier foundation supports a slab foundation. This system allowed for construction on an unstable site soil.





Slab with radiant heat tubing poured over rebar.



Slab is imprinted with rock textured mats. Leaves and animal footprints are also added.

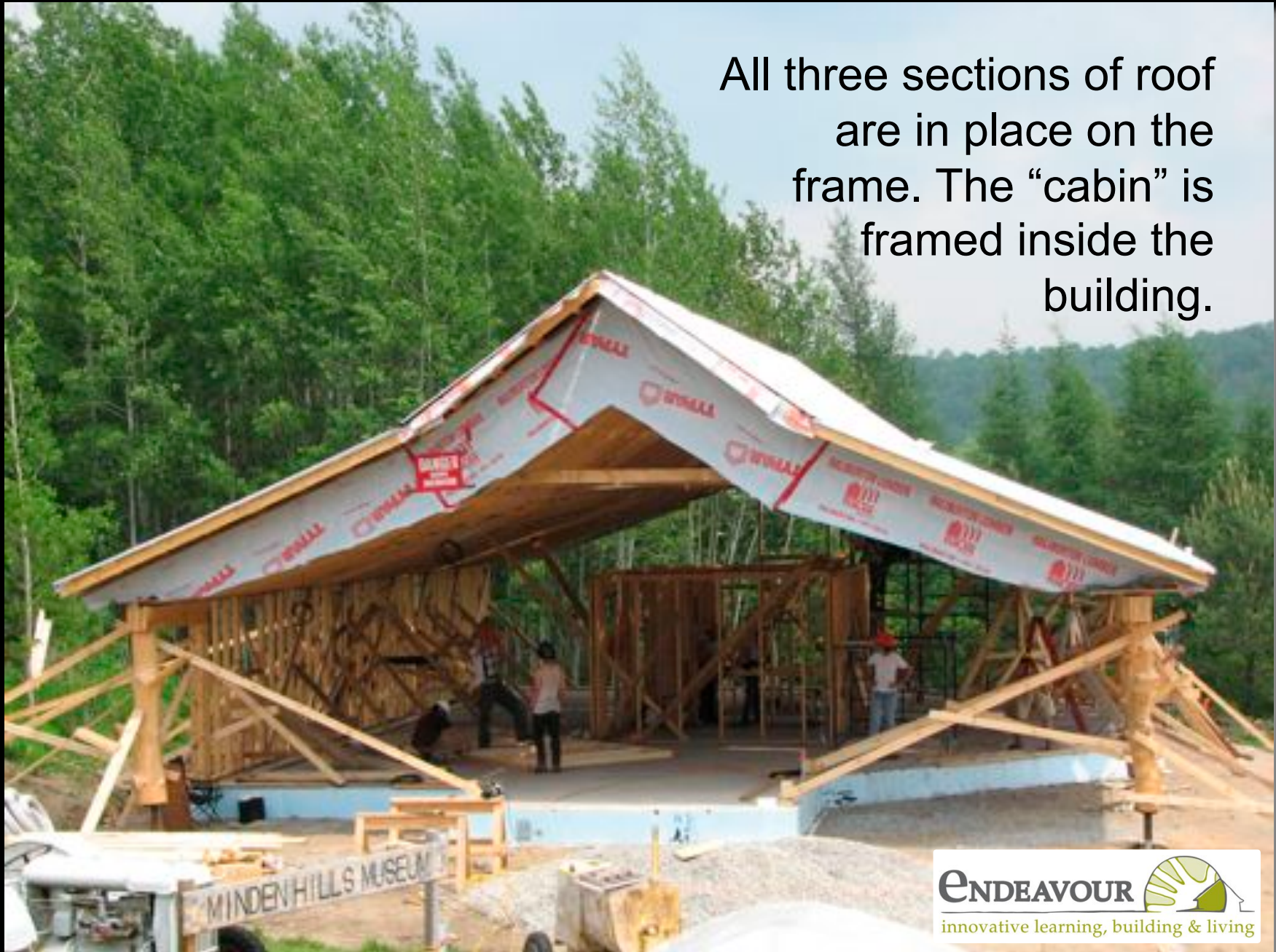
Frame walls are installed, and bales will infill the frames. Post and beam is used on the porch overhangs.



The roof is built on the ground, sheathed and then lifted in place by crane in three sections.



All three sections of roof are in place on the frame. The “cabin” is framed inside the building.




The bales have the inside and outside faces dipped in a clay slip prior to installation.



Fun in the clay slip pit!





The dipped bales are inserted into the frame wall. Whacking them with a 2x4 leaves a perfect groove for fitting around the studs.

The foyer area has slip straw (light clay/straw) formed around the wall studs.

The foyer area slip
straw completed and
awaiting plastering
and sheathing.

After a thin coat of plaster is applied, the bales and slip straw are sheathed with board and batten siding.





The washroom features a glass mosaic and composting toilets.



A small constructed wetland treats the grey water before it leaves the building.





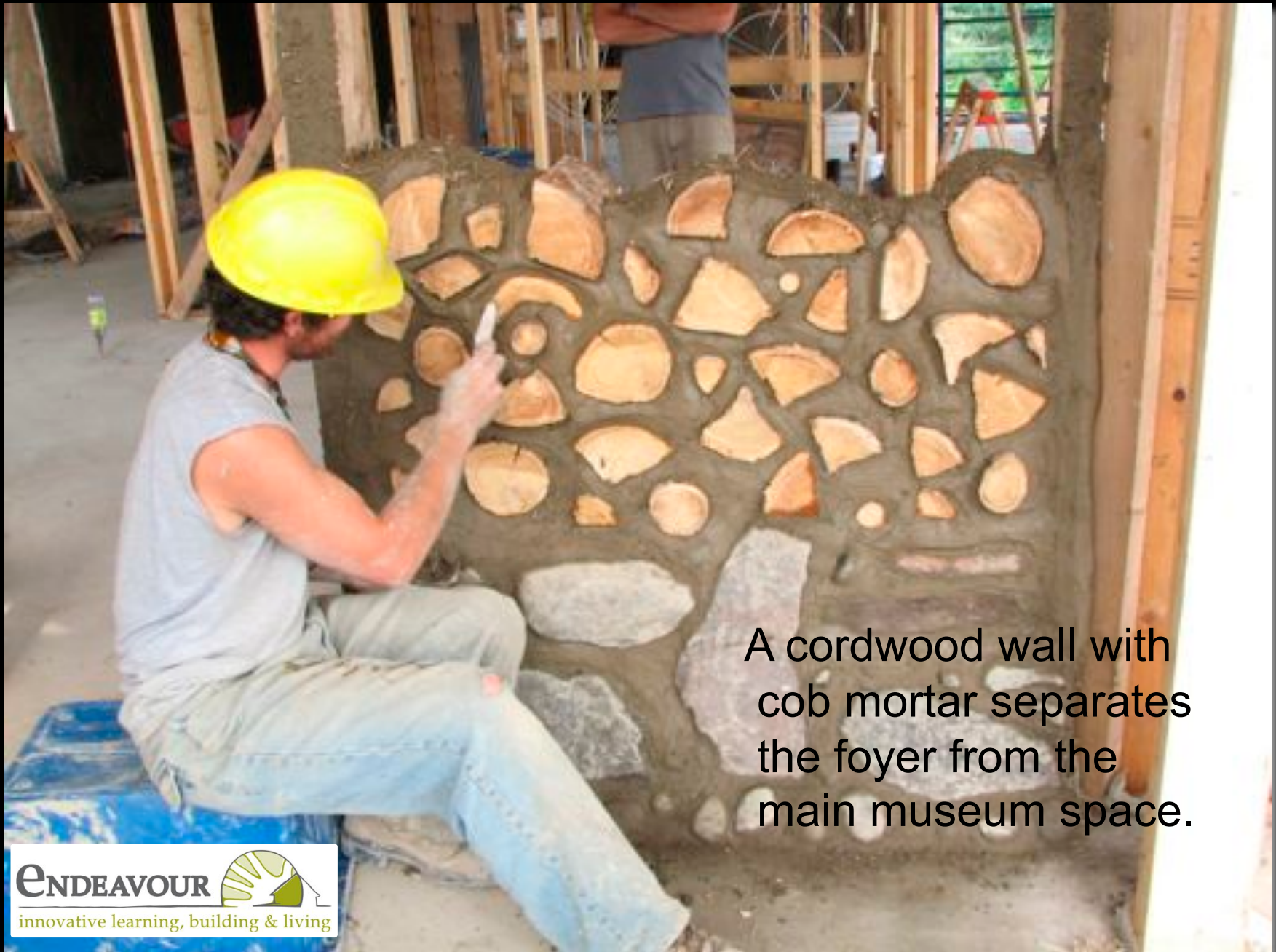
The mechanical room houses the radiant floor heating system, including an electric on-demand boiler, controls, pumps and headers. The controls read outside temperature and activate the system based on temperature changes.

A small 225 watt PV system runs the computer displays in the museum.



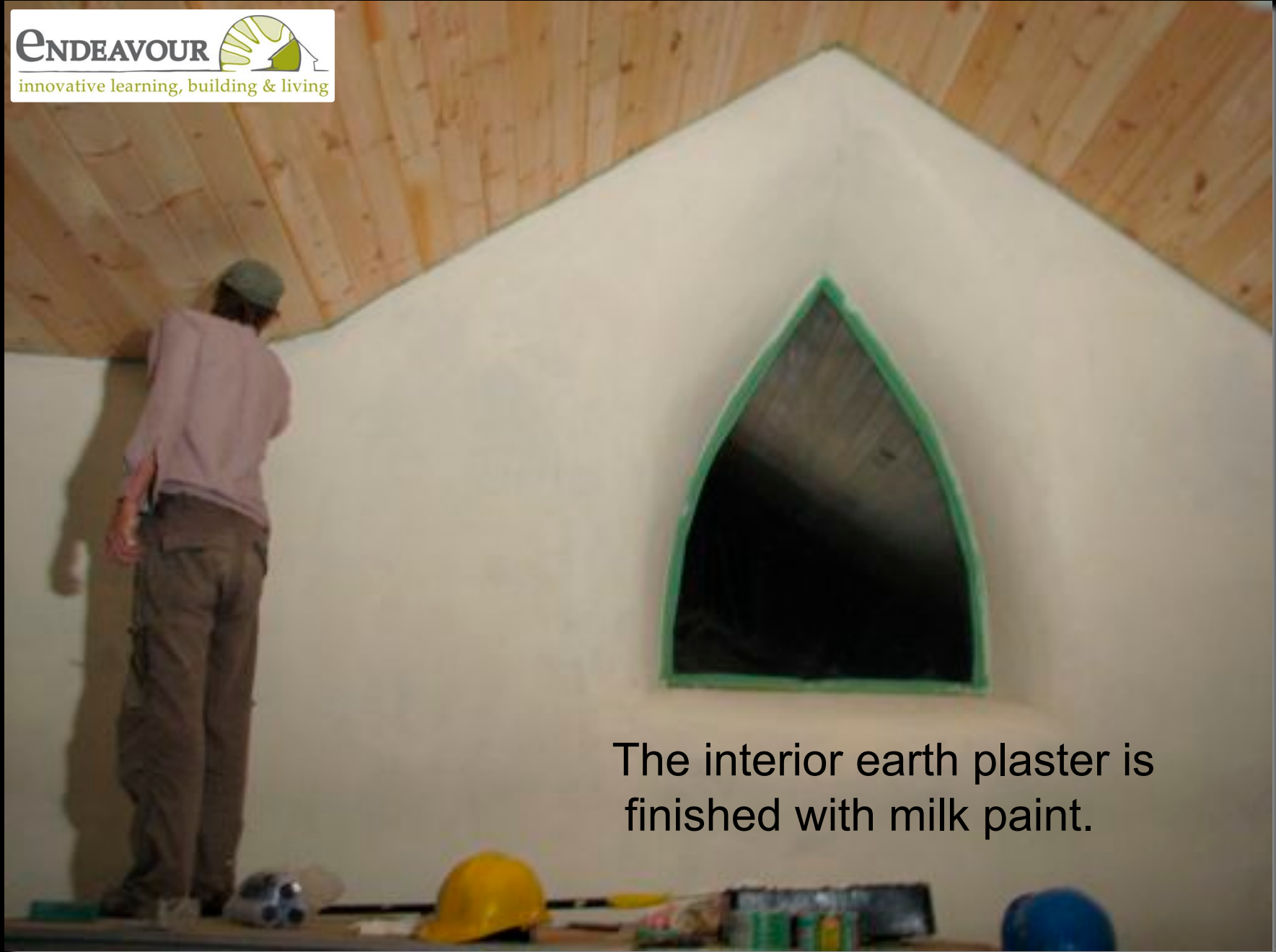


Earthen plaster over
wooden lath
sheathes all the
interior walls.



A cordwood wall with cob mortar separates the foyer from the main museum space.

The interior of the museum features the large cordwood wall, the “log cabin” inside and the earth plastered bale and frame walls.



The interior earth plaster is finished with milk paint.

The entry porch has local trees holding up a beam sheathed in routed and painted plywood.





The finished interior
with trees and
finished log cabin.





**RD Lawrence Place is a wonderful setting
learn about the author and enjoy other
programming by the Minden Museum staff.**

