

Jennifer & Barry, part 2

April / May 2004

Before excavating, Barry and I decided exactly where the LV Home would be built. We chose a knoll with southern exposure. We marked the trees that needed to come down and staked out the building's rough location with rebar. Since we wanted the LV Home to 'float' on the ground per Rocio's design, we were faced with a problem. The building site is on a hill with a 7-foot slope. We wanted to keep the natural landscape of the knoll undisturbed. So we chose to level the hill where the house will sit and terrace the remainder of the hill. This was a risky decision because we didn't know if the excavator would hit rock...and there's plenty of rock!

Excavation started on March 22, 2004 and lasted four days. The excavator started hitting rock in one corner but was able to dig through with his "rock teeth" bucket on his backhoe. Sonny, our excavator, also installed the septic system in one day.

The well was installed on April 8. Our well is 360-feet deep with a water pressure of 7 gallons per minute.

After rethinking how we were going to achieve the 'floating' affect, Barry decided we needed to dig 3-1/2-feet deeper. So we called Sonny and he had a friend of his use a larger backhoe. He was able to cut through the large boulder and dug 3-1/2-feet without hitting more rock. We were lucky! The foundation footing was dug and poured on April 27 and the foundation wall was laid May 12-14. We chose to use concrete block because a concrete-poured wall would have been much more expensive. Since we were building at the bottom of a hill, the concrete would have to be pumped into the form walls with a concrete pump truck. With the footing the subcontractor used his Bobcat to pour the concrete into the footing forms.



Our kit was delivered on Sunday, May 17. I was hoping to have the floor framing completed by the time the kit was delivered, but with the extra excavating and working around the footing and block subcontractors' schedules, the framing hasn't been installed yet. I strongly urge future builders of the LV Home to have the floor framing completed before delivery of the kit. The kit takes up a lot of space and you don't want the wall panels, lumber and plywood exposed to rain for an extended period of time. The delivery guys were wonderful and had the kit unloaded in about 2-1/2 hours.

The floor framing will be installed during Memorial Day weekend.

— Jennifer