

# AAC Home Offers Serenity for Architect

## Case Study

### Challenge

Asheville, North Carolina, residential architect Alice Dodson needed a building material that would provide breathable, masonry walls to align with her commitment to baubiologie and sustainability. Baubiologie, or building biology, analyzes outdoor and indoor living environments and aims to create an ecological solution for energy, water and material use, while enhances indoor air quality by reducing volatile organic compounds (VOC), dust, allergens and electromagnetic pollution.

### Solution

Dodson selected Hebel Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (AAC) as the building material for her own house more than nine years ago because of its readily available material composition (sand, cement, lime) fire protection, workability and lack of VOC emissions. She has recommended it to clients ever since.

### Results

AAC was the perfect solution for Dodson's integrated approach for



sustainable living. She used Hebel AAC blocks and panels for all of the walls and flooring throughout her 4,000 square foot house and saw immediate energy savings. Hebel AAC's thermal mass, coupled with solar panels and a wood stove, resulted in only \$100 in gas consumption during the first year she lived in the house. "Even when we lose power, the house will stay warm for two or three days," Dodson said.



Hebel AAC's superior fire protection also was a huge selling point for Dodson. Hebel AAC boasts the highest fire rating in the building industry, two hour per two inch or four hour per four inch UL ratings, within a single application. Dodson's husband, a firefighter, was very involved in the building process and "his requirements went to an extreme." Dodson noted that "not one stud wall or wood board was allowed in the house, even the closet walls are made from Hebel AAC."

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Dodson also recommends Hebel AAC to her clients because of its versatility, it can be used in a variety of applications and sculpted with traditional woodworking tools into a variety of shapes. "People also are always amazed at what you can do with Hebel AAC aesthetically, from columns to fireplaces, clients are surprised at its beauty."



Dodson concludes by saying that to really understand Hebel AAC, you have to experience it. "Everyone that comes to my house comments on its calming, quiet interior. Through wind storms and thunder, it stays serene inside."



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