The adobe seedling addition, meditation building and the chicken coop

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2008 Seedling addition

In winter 2007 I built the 5 x 24' addition on the south side of the house / garage. Couldn't make it any wider because we have 5' property setbacks on the sides and didn't own the adjoining lot yet.

Due to the weight of the adobe bricks, I put OSB with fiberglass insulation over the sliding glass door windows. The cob would get washed off every few years.

In February 2019 I applied this cob stabilized with Portland cement, and it held up very well, even on top of the parapets that were finished with elastomeric. I attached some stucco metal, and we stapled chicken wire on the OSB.

So far, so good.

Finishing with regular cob is next.

And eventually, I'd like to apply earth-colored lime on the stucco.



2008 Seedling addition

The 2014 meditation building

It needs a roof. Probably have to go to Flagstaff for longer untreated poles -- no chemicals!

2025 update: traded water delivery for longer poles, it was easy to take the old ones off, but haven't had enough hands here to get the new poles up.

Have a metal cover for the middle of the roof so we can have a fire inside or just do hot rocks for a sweat lodge.

And since we don't have wood like the New Mexico latillas here, I'm thinking of canvas.

The two bricks over the door were just set last year when helpers wanted to see how it works. The rest of the structure never even got a rough coat, but it's about time.

Still need to frame the lower vents for mosquito screens and install mosquito screens on all openings. Hasn't been a priority since there's no roof.

Eventually, we need pillows for all vents / windows so we can block the hot or cold air as needed and in summer take them out at night for cooling.

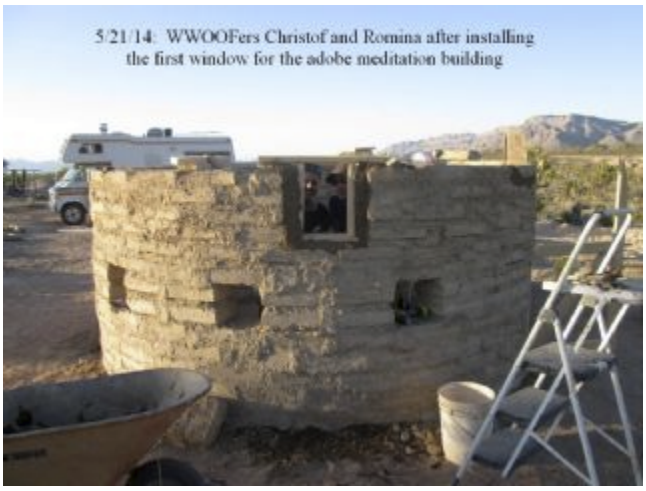
The structure is far from the house, and it's quiet there. Behind it is the little pond for the animals, and it's a great place to meditate.

For a while, it was a gym when a helper brought equipment, and sometimes helpers set up a tent. Despite the many vents, it is excellent wind protection and keeps a tent a little cooler in summer.



Meditation building started in 2014

Just saw this pic on HelpX:



2014: Christof and Romina from Germany made many bricks!

The future chicken coop

This building has a rough coat, definitely needs a finish coat.

Can't get chickens until we've used the dirt on the left for adobe, or moved it out, since that's my ONLY good source of suitable dirt.

The chicken run requires a very strong fence, maybe a chain link fence (not pretty) and it needs to be covered so the prey birds, bobcats, coyotes etc. can't kill the chickens.

I will stop eating chicken once I have my forever pets. I don't care if they don't lay eggs anymore, as long as they poop, they're even still productive. We need nitrogen!

Update 8/14/25: Never had time to get chickens, but became mostly vegetarian finally in 2024 after watching Christspiracy, still have wild caught Alaska sockeye occasionally. I only ate meat once a week or two and never missed it.



Future chicken coop, started in 2015

One reason the buildings aren't finished is that I want some art, decoration, color, shapes. Glass, rocks, pebbles. A friend has old cherry wood chairs I'm thinking of cutting into smaller pieces to use.