



**Date:**

**Wednesday, March 24, 2010**

**Time:**

**3:10 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Presenter:**

***“Small building holistic systems selection for cold climates”***

Grace Spitz

Partner, Homrich Communications, Inc.

Small building holistic systems selection for cold climates – designing for ecological, economic, and functional quality. This presentation provides an overview of the materials and systems used in the construction of a small residence in Jackson County, Wisconsin with emphasis on the use of autoclaved aerated concrete (AAC) block. AAC is a lightweight concrete material that is both insulative and structural. AAC was developed in Europe over 70 years ago and is now one of the most common building materials in use worldwide.

**Presenter Biography**

**Grace Spitz**

Grace has a background in residential and landscape design earlier in her career. For over twenty years she and her husband Bill have provided Johnson Controls and other organizations with technical communications, application development and information architecture. Bill is the general contractor and structural designer for the project. They transferred their design and build skills to the Aerhaus project, a small sustainable home using both well-developed and novel technologies and materials. The result was one of the first homes in Wisconsin to use an ultra lightweight insulating concrete block as a wall construction material. This material in conjunction with other technologies and materials has proven to be a legitimate alternative to stick frame and poured concrete wall construction.