

# Solarcrete impresses Chinese

## HERALD NEWS SERVICE

WOODSTOCK — A delegation of architects from China visited the Midwest this fall.

The Chinese head ministers of architecture included a visit to Greenwood Place Townhomes on their itinerary.

The architects were interested in ways to save on energy costs.

Apparently they found a way at the Woodstock project, according to Greenwood Place developer Pete Konopka.

Konopka is a general contractor from Huntley for a product called Solarcrete. Although it looks like cement, it has a more plastic consistency. It is sprayed into place and acts as an insulating as well as construction agent.

"They were impressed with the way it looked and especially the energy efficiency utility bills of an average of only \$25 per month," said Konopka.

The Chinese delegation spent a morning in Chicago before working their way Northwest to Route 47.

The townhomes are off Route 47, three blocks from the Route 120 intersection.

"They are looking for better ways and better building systems to specifically apply to



Photo provided

## China's head minister of architecture, Feng Zhi Wei, tours Greenwood Place Townhomes in Woodstock.

housing. Of special interest were the townhomes, viewing a finished product as well as some in different phases of construction.

"Concrete is available in China but timber is expensive so they are interested in this energy efficient method," said Konopka.

The visitors included Feng Zhi Wei, head minister of architecture, deputy directors Wang Zhen Zhong and Li Zhen Hang and engineer Chen Ying.

The tour was arranged by Dr. Dex Shi of C&S, a building materials bureau in Hebei,

China.

Arrangements are underway to send Konopka and designer Don Oberland of Tri-State Solarcrete to China to begin teaching Solarcrete technology to the Chinese.

Konopka indicated one need not travel 6,000 miles to see a Solarcrete townhome.

For a tour of the 45 homes in Greenwood Place call Konopka, (815) 923-2553.

"Some are completed and others have people living in them and those people have the heating bills which show how well Solarcrete works.

"The new units will be finished by Dec. 7.