

### Construction Site Visit – Casita

For my construction site visit, I chose to reference photos taken during the construction process of my family's new home in Henderson, Nevada, right outside of Las Vegas. The construction of our actual home lasted over a period of six months back in 2005, and was a very quick and efficient process. A few months later, to accommodate my brother, a small addition, or a casita, was constructed. Looking through the photos from the construction of the casita, a few of them caught my interest. Here they are:



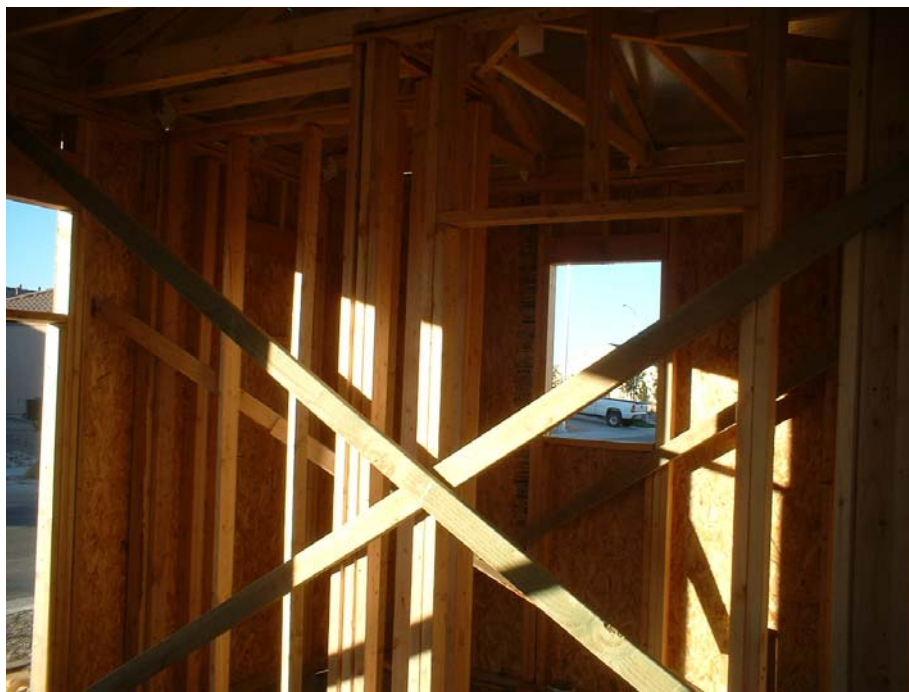
This is a picture of the outside framing of the casita. The construction process first began with laying the concrete slab, then erecting the structure. All of the outside framing members were made of oriented strand board, a new trend in residential construction. It amazed me how strong and sturdy these members were. In the following pictures, we'll get a look at the interior framing of the structure.

The following pictures contain shots of roof members and rafters within the casita. What really stood out to me is the complexity of the members that make up the joints.



The first picture depicts a corner section of the roof. Here we can see roof members and columns coming together to form the corner joint. Standard 2x4 and 2x6 members were used in the frame. Note the close-up view of the OSB walls. The oriented strand board, comprised of wood chips compressed together, has a very interesting look as is surprisingly sturdy. The second picture depicts a joint within the roofing system, a surprisingly complex member with what appears to be a great deal of redundancy.

The following pictures contain images of the temporary cross-bracing within the walls of the casita necessary during the construction phase. These braces are necessary for stability and strength until the construction is completed. Note that in both these pictures, the cross-bracings go right in front of a doorway, implying their temporary status.



Lastly, I wanted to reference a few photos from the construction of our garage because we had a similar task in our fourth homework of constructing a garage with wood members. Note in this first picture the simple column supports at equal spacing, very similar to our homework.



This picture has a good view of the roof trusses. Very similar to our homework, identical roof trusses are constructed then spaced evenly apart. Such a simple roof truss can provide a lot of support, and I'm thankful for that to this day as our cars have been well-protected.

