



Homes of Distinction, Built with Integrity



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Lessons From a Green Pyramid

Some would argue that “green building” has been around for centuries. Using natural materials for building, harnessing renewable energy sources, and seeking energy efficiency are not new ideas. Whether it was the building of the Egyptian pyramids or the adobe homesteads of the American West, purposeful selection and use of materials has long been a natural part of getting the job done.

However, population growth and the technology of new materials has caused the building industry to stray from some of these important principles in modern times. The good news is that, in recent years, the building industry has seen an explosion in “green” technology. An increasing stream of products and construction techniques has created new and exciting green options for both builders and home owners. As we increase our knowledge by tapping into the latest information at conventions, in magazines and on websites, “green” is rapidly becoming integrated into our daily lives.

Drawing on his broad knowledge of green building and new technologies, Chris Donatelli has helped make “green” a reality for many of our customers. Two recent whole house builds have featured recently introduced products, alternative building techniques and energy efficient designs.



The Los Altos residence shown above was built using structural insulated panels (SIPs), has radiant heating in the floor slab, used spray foam insulation and will combine a high-efficiency boiler with solar collectors. This system will heat the home as well as provide hot water for fixtures.



**Build It
GREEN**
MEMBER



Our staff members hold the following industry certifications:

- Certified Remodeler
- Certified Remodeling Carpenter
- Certified Lead Carpenter
- Certified Kitchen and Bath Remodeler
- Certified Green Building Professional

The Mountain View residence shown below is outfitted with items such as spray foam insulation, heat recovery ventilation, radiant floor heating, and low VOC paints, finishes, and doors.



Chris Donatelli is a Certified Green Building Professional (CGBP) and Certified Green Point Rater through Build It Green, a Berkeley-based non-profit. Chris is also a Green Certified Professional through NARI (National Association of the Remodeling Industry).

Home Maintenance Reminder: An Easy Way to Save on Water

Even if you have a low-flow toilet, it can still waste water if it's not in good repair. To find out if your toilet is in good working order, just add a small amount of red food coloring to the tank and check back in 30 minutes. If you see that the water in the bowl has turned red, water is seeping through from the tank indicating it's time to replace some tank parts.

We hope you enjoyed our e-newsletter. Remember, you can use the link below to forward this to friends and family who might be interested, so they can sign up for it as well. Look for us again next month!

Chris

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