



Homes of Distinction, Built with Integrity



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Are the Lights on Upstairs?

Energy efficiency has become a hot topic recently, both at a local and national level. The federal government is taking the topic more seriously with new bills being proposed and new technology being developed. This is just the beginning - there is a huge amount of potential.



At the residential homeowner level, escalating fuel prices and a tough economy have forced many to look at their high utility bills and personal budgets. But energy efficiency is not just about turning off the lights, using compact fluorescent bulbs, adjusting your thermostat or adding solar panels to the roof. It's also the energy efficient measures that can be *built into* a home.

Insulation, double-paned windows and doors, proper sealing/venting and Energy Star appliances all combine to greatly reduce a home's energy consumption. At Chris Donatelli Builders, we believe that all the parts of a house need to work together as a system. You'll not only see the difference in your energy usage, but in your comfort and health as well.

Chris Donatelli has dedicated much of his time and effort (in the form of training, teaching, and on-the-job experience) to lowering energy usage. Our new "Home Performance" service supports this. Not only can we diagnose your home, showing where you are losing energy and how well your appliances are working, but we can provide you with the building services to combat any problem areas you may have. Knowing how your house measures up is the first step!

If you would like to see how your home measures up with our Home Performance Service, call us at 408-287-4886 or go to our website at www.dcbuild.com.

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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

Our Whole House Build Is Complete!

Chris Donatelli Builders recently held an open house to celebrate the completion of a year-long project in Los Altos. We celebrated our achievement with the architects and sub-contractors that contributed to this successful build. The project involved deconstructing the existing house (a 1930s cottage) and building a new home from the ground up. This house featured important energy-saving techniques and products that promote a healthier indoor environment:



- a foundation with radiant heating in the slab
- walls structured out of SIPs (structurally insulated panels)
- a roof with a radiant barrier
- spray foam and blown-in cellulose insulation
- a heat recovery ventilation unit which exchanges indoor air for out
- a whole house fan to regulate heat/air quality
- a super efficient water heater supplemented by solar radiant panels

This home is truly a model of energy efficiency! We are confident these systems will not only allow for energy savings, but will also show the homeowners how well a home can work *for them*.

We here at Chris Donatelli Builders are proud of how this job came together and would like to thank Judith Wasserman AIA for the design of the home.

Home Maintenance Tip: Make Your Home Fire-Safe

Did you check your smoke detectors when you changed your clocks? If not, now's the time to do so. Confirm there is one on each floor of your home with new batteries.

It's also a good time to make sure there is a fire extinguisher in your home near each place where fire may start, such as the kitchen, garage, workshop, or barbecue area. The recommended extinguisher for home use is a multipurpose ABC. And remember, an extinguisher should only be used on a very small fire that can be put out quickly.

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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