

Focus On

HBA-GLR Green BUILT® Arkansas Model Home



Photos courtesy of HBA-GLR

By: Priscilla Shrader-Peters

The Home Builders Association of Greater Little Rock (HBA-GLR) recently announced the Association is building a Green BUILT® Model Home as part of their efforts to educate home buyers, home builders and the general public on green building concepts and practices that are practical in today's market. Little Rock Home Builders Richard Harp and Keith Wingfield will be the project managers for the model home.

"I wanted to be a part of this excellent community educational mission," said Harp. "I think most good builders get 90%-95% of their buildings put together well. But that last 5% done correctly can make a huge difference in how a home performs with regard to energy efficiency, greater human comfort at lower energy consumption levels, completed in a fashion that is considered environmentally friendly and sustainable."

The HBA-GLR plans to break ground this fall with a proposed completion date of late Spring of 2010. The home will be located in the Foxfield subdivision of Woodland's Edge development in Little Rock. Woodland's Edge is a National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) 4-Star Certified Green Development and the 2009 Green Development of the Year.

Harp and Wingfield plan to build the model home to the National Green Building Standard, which provides builders and remodelers with an expansive third-party rating system that can be used to achieve green certification under the National Green Building Certification Program. "As an industry, we needed to help educate both the public and our members on green building," said Wingfield. "It seemed we kept talking about it but our buyers didn't really know what questions to ask or even what to look for.



Many of our builder members felt they should not get involved in green building until the demand from buyers grows more. This model home helps accelerate the process by educating both groups.”

During the building process, the HBA-GLR will host a series of open houses, complete with comprehensive tours upon the home’s completion. “I hope we raise the visibility of the HBA to the general public, and the builder and trade public see another value with the HBA being an educational tool that can help them further their knowledge, practices and ultimately, their business,” said Harp.

Both Harp and Wingfield have experience in the green building area, and these experts along with the other Certified Green Professionals (CGP) from the HBA-GLR are thrilled to be a part of such an exciting project. “Showing how building Smart Green can be achieved on nearly any home by better use of the raw materials and smarter application of labor and technology if only to save on future operating costs is what I’m excited about on this project,” said Harp. “The more this is shown and explained to owners, the more they will ask for that. And, after all, builders usually want to offer a home to a buyer that the buyer wants.”

Wingfield also looks forward to working on the project, and most notably working alongside his fellow builders. “To be working with my fellow builders on a worthwhile project is what I’m excited about,” said Wingfield. “Many of us have worked on the House of Hope, Extreme Makeover and other building projects. The bond we create with each other is lasting.”

To learn more about this project call 501-758-3646 or visit www.hbaglr.com. 🏠

