

THE HOUSE THAT GREEN BUILT



The Home Builders Association of Greater Little Rock (HBAGLR) is constructing its first-ever GREEN BUILT model home.

The house is located in west Little Rock's Woodland's Edge, the 2009 Green Development of the Year. The project is a sustainable construction set to ANSI-approved National Green Building Standards. The standards state: "a builder, remodeler or developer must incorporate a minimum number of features in the following areas: energy, water and resource efficiency, lot and site development, indoor environment quality and homeowner education."

As construction of the home draws to a close, many of the aesthetic details and interior design have come into play. With the assistance of Paige Nix, interior designer, the walls of the home have been painted modern colors, such as shades of green, blue, yellow and taupe.

Several large decisions remained, including how to help the home use less water overall. To accomplish this, low-flow faucets and dual-flush or low flush toilets were installed. Falk Plumbing & Supply sponsored this

component, using low-flow faucets and showerheads and other green products in the kitchen and three full-baths. Low-flow faucets and showerheads utilize low-flow aerators, and in the case of the showerheads reduce water usage to 1.7 gallons per minute (versus 2.5 gallons per minute regularly). The kitchen sink has been equipped with a brilliant stainless, touch-control, low-flow faucet by Delta; this sink, as well as the laundry sink, is composed of a sustainable material of 80 percent granite and 20 percent epoxy.

"We tried to use as many green products as possible," said Sandy Morehead, Falk showroom manager. "All of the toilets were made by Kohler and feature a two-button flush; one for fluid waste, another for solid waste. This saves an incredible 3,000 gallons of water annually. We also used 'green cabinetry' in the guest bath. The vanity is made of renewable, sustainable material, a solid core compressed of wheat and rice straw."

The bathtubs in two of the baths are made of cast iron that is comprised of 93 percent reclaimed material.

As we discussed last month, one of the

decisions that remained was what material to use for the deck in the rear of the GREEN BUILT home. Keith Wingfield serves as co-project coordinator and president of the HBAGLR. Wingfield said Arkansas produces an abundance of southern yellow pine, making it a regional material. "However, sustainability is an issue with any product that is used in an outdoor environment. Composite material is ideal, but can be expensive ... so we're debating on that issue."

They used TimberTech decking. TimberTech composite decking is sustainable and has a 25-year warranty. It contains 12 percent post-consumer recycled plastic; in fact, the company uses more than 28 million pounds of product scrap each year. TimberTech products, according to their website, don't splinter or warp, and their decking, posts, rails and fencing materials come in a variety of colors, negating the need to paint and stain.

Be sure to read *AY* next month; we'll wrap up our coverage of the GREEN BUILT home and give you information about upcoming tours of the west Little Rock home. ■



Check *AY* each month, as we'll feature monthly updates through the completion of the GREEN BUILT home.