

Colorado Green Business

Weekly Online News for the Green Building Industry in Colorado

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LEED-Homes Pilot Includes a Colorado Modular Home



Rendering courtesy of Studio:HT

By Linda Hardesty

DENVER, Oct. 8, 2007 – The U. S. Green Building Council will soon wrap up its LEED for Homes pilot program, which it began in August 2005. Nineteen homes in Colorado were in the pilot, including a modular home built by Boulder architectural firm Studio H:T (<http://www.studioht.com/HT.html>).

Although most of the homes in the program were constructed in the traditional, site-built way, a modular home in the pilot, built by California-based LivingHomes, received tons of publicity for achieving LEED-platinum certification in August, 2006. The Ray Kappe-designed home got people to associate factory-built homes with sustainability (<http://www.livinghomes.net/viewPress.html?id=1>).

Modular can achieve up to 75% less waste than site-built homes.

The Studio H:T home, which is aiming for LEED-silver certification, is located near the corner of 32nd and Wyandot St. in the Highlands neighborhood of northwest Denver.

Brad Tomecek, principal with Studio H:T, said, “There are a lot of subtleties about how to define a modular home.”

Certainly, the green homebuilders who are constructing factory-built homes don’t care to have their projects referred to as “mobile homes,” and they cringe at the word “trailer.”

The words “pre-fab,” “factory-built” and “modular” are politically correct.

Another distinction is that modular homes are attached to a permanent foundation and are considered real estate.

Modular homes vary in terms of how complete the house is when it arrives at the site.



Photo courtesy of Studio:HT

“Ours arrived in just two boxes,” said Tomecek. “It was 80-90% finished with floors, cabinets, lighting, plumbing and electrical. On site we’re installing the roof, putting on the stucco and doing all the foundation work. We dug the hole July 5 and expect to be in by mid-October.”

The 1,800 sq. ft. Highlands home was factory-built by Barvista Homes in Johnstown, Colo. (<http://www.barvistahomes.com>). Tomecek said it cost about \$150 per sq. ft.