

COAST TO COAST DEVELOPMENT



BOULDER DEVELOPERS BUILD LOCALLY, THINK GLOBALLY

by Heather DeVerna

IN BOULDER, CO, HOME BUYERS KNOW what they're looking for in a new house, "Boulder is a very dynamic community" explains Jeff Eckert, co-owner of Coast to Coast Development, "there's a lot of highly educated people here, and [they have] a lot of technical questions." By adopting a hands-on approach and listening to their buyers, Coast to Coast Development co-owners, Bill and Jeff Eckert, are able to offer sophisticated, semi-custom homes which each exceed the Denver HBA Built Green standards.

For Bill and Jeff, building green was the natural progression from build-

ing quality houses. "Part of a quality home is an efficient home," notes Jeff, so from its inception in 1990, Coast to Coast Development incorporated energy efficient products into its building. The owners also realized that home quality did not end with efficiency, "In the early 90s, we were using a major brand adhesive to hold plywood down on the floors, and we started getting these yellow streaks in our linoleum," remembers Bill. After consulting with several suppliers, the partners discovered that the stains were caused by off-gassing of VOCs (volatile organic compounds) from the adhesive. From then on, they began to use low-VOC,

Above: European country duplex home.

“We’re completely involved in the development of the property, the plans, the quality of the materials being used and their application in the field.” *Bill Eckert, Co-Owner*

water-based type adhesives.

Seeing the damage the off-gassing caused the linoleum, motivated Bill and Jeff to take a closer look at the materials they used to build their houses. “Just [plain] energy efficiency does not give you a healthy home,” Bill points out, “we look at our product and say ‘would we live in it?’” Maintaining this high standard made it easy for Coast to Coast Development to meet and surpass Built Green Colorado standards. Sponsored by the Home Builders Association of Metro Denver, Built Green Colorado requires that a house achieve at least 85 points to qualify. “We easily achieve 150 points when we fill out our Built Green application,” Bill acknowledges, “We are 100 percent Built Green.”

Along with all of their units being Built Green, Coast to Coast Development is recognized by the EPA and Department of Energy as a 100 percent Energy Star Builder. “You put the two together and it really goes a long way toward protecting the environment,” Jeff observes, but meeting these standards hasn’t stopped them from continuing to strive toward a higher quality, healthy home. With their houses being built for maximum efficiency, Bill and Jeff began to wonder what effect this was having on air quality inside the house. After discussing the matter with Built Green and Energy Star raters, the owners recently decided to incorporate the Energy Star Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) package into their building. They are one of the first builders in Colorado to take this step.

The IAQ package will be one of the new amenities offered by Bill and Jeff on their next project, Northfield Village, set to break ground in Boul-

der near the end of 2008. The Northfield Village subdivision will be very similar to the homes offered in Northfield Commons, also in Boulder. Northfield Commons consists of 191 units varying in style from four-plex to eight-plex full-size townhomes, and ranging in price from \$159K to 850K. Eighty of the units Coast to Coast Development built were sold this year, and with sales remaining strong, Bill and Jeff plan to build 97 units in the Northfield Village subdivision.

Some of the green features home buyers can find in a Coast to Coast Development home include:

- Dual furnace system in most homes, allowing zoning temperature control and greater efficiency;
- R-20 or higher cellulose insulation;
- Sustainable, farm-grown hardwoods ;

- Stain resistant carpet made from corn stock;
- Tiles produced from recycled glass;
- VOC-free carpet pads made from recycled rags;
- Motion-sensor garage exhaust fan, to remove carbon monoxide;
- Garages wired with 220v circuit for alternative energy vehicles;
- Low-VOC paints and finishes.

Coast to Coast Development also boasts a level of accountability and quality Bill and Jeff attribute in part to developing almost exclusively in Boulder County. Bill elaborates, “We’re completely involved in the development of the property, the plans, the quality of the materials being used and their application in the field. We’re on-site daily. We can be at any one of our projects in 20 minutes. We like to do stuff at home, in

COAST TO COAST
DEVELOPMENT
AT A GLANCE

LOCATIONS:
Boulder, CO

AREA OF
SPECIALTY:
Residential homes

ANNUAL UNITS
SOLD: 79



Above: Craftsman style, traditional single-family home.

COAST
TO COAST
DEVELOPMENT

a community that we know and understand and that's helped us be successful.”

Listening to their buyers, exploring the viability of new green technologies, and striving for a quality product all contribute to Coast to Coast Development's philosophy of creating green, efficient, healthy homes. "Our mission is to stay ahead of the curve in terms of quality, energy efficiency, Built Green, and now air quality." GBQ

A MESSAGE FROM MS
SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

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SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

MS Specialty Products — Committed to Green



As energy efficiency grows in importance, Merillat is diligently searching for ways to reduce its carbon footprint, including, recycling materials, improving air quality, reducing waste as well as earning the following environmental certifications:

- KCMA ESP Certification
- ISO 14001

"We also offer ICESTONE – Countertops made from 75% recycled glass"



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