



“When you say ‘green construction,’ many people think funky earthen beams and sod roofs,” says builder Frank Laskey. “But that just isn’t true any more.” Twin doors and transom windows bring cooling breezes and the wooded view to the living room of the home he built in upstate New York.

Easy Being Green

Don't let the good looks fool you. Nine eco-conscious features lie just below the surface of this handsome home.

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“Green” can look warm and friendly.

That’s what builder Frank Laskey and architect Mike Phinney set out to prove with their showhouse in Saratoga Springs, New York. It can also make financial sense. Building this home green cost 10 percent more than a standard home, but Laskey expects energy bills to be 30 percent lower.



1 Long-lasting cement fiberboard siding and asphalt shingles won't need to be replaced as often as conventional ones, keeping them out of landfills longer. *CertainTeed siding, certainteed.com; Owens Corning architectural shingles, owenscorning.com*

2 An open floor plan not only makes the house seem bigger but also takes best advantage of the natural light and cross breezes the windows offer.

3 A house-wide ventilation system silently moves stale air outside and freshens indoor air, on the same amount of energy used to power a 75-watt lightbulb. *Broan heat recovery ventilator; broan.com*



4 Red oak flooring and concrete countertops, both fabricated nearby, saved the cost and environmental impact of long-distance shipping. These counters reuse fly ash, a by-product of burning coal.

5 New homes are more airtight than ever, so indoor air quality is a top concern. Compared to the MDF typically used in cabinet construction, the plywood cabinet boxes in this house off-gas fewer harmful chemicals.

6 Energy Star-rated appliances, such as the stainless-steel dishwasher and refrigerator, use about 30 percent less energy than standard models.

7 Energy-efficient windows and insulating blinds reduce heat loss by more than 75 percent. In addition, window trim is made of fast-growing poplar, a renewable resource. *Integrity windows from Marvin, integritywindows.com; Duette Architella blinds, hunterdouglas.com*



8 Siting a house so its longest side has southern exposure saves energy. Phinney went a step further, positioning the busiest rooms in the house—the living and breakfast areas—along the south side. Sunlight keeps these spaces bright and warm as long as possible each day, key in a cold climate like New York's.

9 Though hidden from sight, formaldehyde-free building materials and a wax-and-resin subfloor (it contains fewer VOCs than the usual particleboard) are two features that promote better indoor air quality and help the house meet the American Lung Association standards for a healthy house. For more information, visit healthhouse.org. ■

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