

Concept Home Omaha Considers a Sustainable Future

By Newport Partners, LLC

As the debate on global warming solutions continues across America, one thing is certain—we in the housing industry need to consider the future of the environment and how we impact it in our everyday work – it is our legacy.

Sustainability is a hot topic in magazines, newspaper and home and garden TV shows. Sustainable and “green” products and materials are constantly being developed. But, in order to use these products in homes we need to know that they also provide durability, comfort, value, and much more. That is why PATH is working with leading manufacturer’s to highlight innovation and advances in housing that support environmentally-friendly building practices.



The PATH Concept Home, now under construction in Omaha, Nebraska, is a 2,000 square foot bungalow located in a dynamic urban neighborhood. The home combines innovative products and systems with traditional design elements to create a vision for the future of housing.

Being built to serve as a national model of housing innovation, the Concept Home is following LEED for Homes guidelines and will be certified by both Environments for Living and ENERGY STAR Homes. The home boasts many sustainable features including the building envelope system and insulation,



mechanical insulation, radon mitigation, water conservation and the use of sustainable materials.

One creative solution can be seen with the New York Wall Company’s partnership with Georgia Pacific’s Industrial Wood Products group. Together they are creating a moveable wall system that can be easily repositioned to create different spaces. “Providing families the ability to easily shape their living environment without moving or expensive remodeling, as their needs change over time, is the ultimate in sustainability,” notes Fernando Pages of Brighton Construction who is building America’s first PATH Concept Home.

Another cutting edge product being used in the Concept Home is BioBased Insulation which is comprised of annually renewable U.S. grown soybeans. BioBased expands to 100 times after being sprayed, sealing all gaps and providing an environmentally responsible and energy efficient system.



Hansgrohe’s greywater system, Pontos AquaCycle, purifies shower and drinking water to produce clean water to be used for operating washing machines, flushing toilets and watering gardens. Their biological-mechanical treatment results in germfree water without the use of chemicals. This process of reducing overall water usage and waste conserves significant amounts of water.

The home’s cool metal roof, made available by Follansbee and the Metal Roofing Alliance, gives long-term durability and maximum energy performance through its pre-painted solar reflective color that reduces heat and its special zinc/tin alloy that provides enhanced corrosion resistance.

Two additional Georgia Pacific products, Dens Armor Plus Paperless Drywall and Dens Shield backer board, are an integral part of the home’s sustainability package by ensuring moisture and mold resistance for a healthy environment for years to come.

The products pictured at the left are just a few of the diverse family of innovative systems which will be showcased in the PATH Concept Home and serve to underscore how technology can help the housing industry advance.

The Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (PATH), an initiative between the U.S. government and America’s homebuilding industry, is building a technological vision for our nation’s homes. Newport Partners provides project management for the PATH Concept Home. For more information visit www.pathnet.org/concepthome or call 301-889-0017