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MC Construction Builds First National Green Certified Home in Washington State

Open House on July 18 Will Showcase the Beauty and Benefits of Building Green

SEATTLE— A custom home built by MC Construction is the first home in Washington state to be certified under the new National Green Building Standard™ developed by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) non-profit research center and the first national green building program to meet the rigorous standards set by ANSI (American National Standards Institute). The program gives builders across the country a consistent, verifiable third-party rating system to achieve green certification for their homes. The southeast Seattle home will be open to the public July 18, along with the point-by-point checklist showing how the project met the standards.

In addition to meeting the National Green Building Standard™, the 2,400-square-foot post-and-beam style home, designed by Lindal Cedar Homes, is also certified by the government-backed ENERGY STAR® Homes program and by Built Green®, a non-profit program of the Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties.

Client Wendy Jans chose MC Construction for their expertise in green building on the recommendation of Tom Schuch from Lindal. Schuch also located a certified third-party verifier required for the green certification process.

Like a growing number of Americans, Jans wanted her house to be energy efficient and environmentally friendly. "The more I learned about building green, the more excited I got," she said.

MC Construction has strong credentials in green building. Every home MC Construction has built since 2006 has been certified through the Built Green® program, and that now numbers in the

hundreds of Built Green® certified custom homes and multi-family residences. Their entire 97 acre Point Ruston community on Commencement Bay in Pierce County is a Built Green® certified development.

Equally important to Jans was MC Construction's outstanding reputation for excellent craftsmanship, quality, and attention to detail. After visiting several of their projects, Jans felt confident in selecting MC Construction to build her home.

Jans had several personal priorities for her new green home: high energy efficiency, healthy indoor air quality, and extensive use of sustainable or recycled materials. Because it was just as important to Wendy to deconstruct her old home properly as it was to build her new green home, MC Construction partnered with Olympia Salvage to tear down, re-use, and recycle every item in the old home before starting work on the new home.

Jans's custom home is sited and designed to take advantage of passive solar and bathe the interior in natural light. Lindal's post-and beam construction allows for open, light-filled spaces with Low E Argon windows for energy efficiency. The home is designed, plumbed and wired in anticipation of a future solar hot water system and solar panels on the metal roof.

Because Lindal's building materials are manufactured within 500 miles of the home's site, Jans received "green points" for using regional materials that minimize the environmental impact of shipping. The home's insulation is made of cellulose, which increases energy efficiency without the use of fiberglass or formaldehyde. In-floor radiant heat avoids a forced-air system, which tends to move dust and pollutants through ductwork. Bamboo and cork flooring wins points for use of sustainable materials and avoids the air-quality issues of carpet. Zero-VOC paint was used throughout the interior. Decking and bathroom countertops are made of recycled materials. Dual-flush toilets save water with every use. All appliances and most of the home's light fixtures are ENERGY STAR®-rated for energy efficiency.

Pam Worner of Green Dog Enterprises was the verifier on the Jans home, documenting that requirements were met for all three certification programs. Close coordination between MC Construction, Lindal Cedar Homes, and Green Dog Enterprises has given the homeowner, Wendy Jans, the satisfaction of achieving the green home she envisioned, and bragging rights as owner of the first National Green Building Standards™ certified home in Washington state.

For the address and hours of the Jans Open House on July 18, contact Rod McCarten at 360-280-5486. MC Construction has offices in Olympia and Ruston, Washington. For more information call 360-456-6307 x16. Or visit www.mcconstruction.com or www.pointruston.com.

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