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THE ART AND CRAFT OF CUSTOM HOME BUILDING / A HANLEY-WOOD PUBLICATION

SPECIAL REPORT:

THE STATE OF THE CUSTOM HOME MARKET



A large, double-height living room with a vaulted wooden ceiling. The ceiling is made of horizontal wooden planks and features a central gallery structure with three horizontal wooden beams supported by a central vertical post and diagonal bracing. A small window is set into the central post. The walls are also wood-paneled. In the foreground, there is a leather sofa, a coffee table, and a lamp. In the background, there is a dining table and chairs, and a set of double doors. The room is well-lit with natural light from windows and artificial light from the gallery structure.

Instead of air conditioning, Kielman designed a long, double-height gallery with upper windows that are set on heat sensors. When the indoor temperature gets too hot, the windows automatically open for cross-ventilation.

Hinesburg, Vt.-based builder Chuck Reese's credentials are about as green as they come. Before entering the building business full-time, he taught college-level environmental science. He also started Vermont Building for Social Responsibility, a 50-member organization made up of local builders and tradespeople. ■ In building this 3,480-square-foot residence for a couple in northern Vermont he, architect

Mountain Time

Rolf Kielman, and the owners came up with a plan to make the house as sustainable as possible while still keeping it within a reasonable budget. ■ They built it on a plot of already-cleared land on the wooded site, so they could keep the number of trees cut



down to a minimum. Those they did remove were made into cabinets and countertops. Cellulose and extruded polystyrene foam insulation ensure high R-values, and an air-to-air heat exchanger keeps fresh air constantly flowing throughout the house. Reese and his crew recycled most of the jobsite waste, including leftover drywall pieces. "You can put it on a pallet and ship it back to the factory, where they re-use it," he says. "It costs about \$100 extra, but it's worth it."—M.D.

Project Credits: Builder: Reese Building & Renovation, Hinesburg, Vt.; Architect: Truex Cullins & Partners, Burlington, Vt.; Living space: 3,480 square feet; Site size: 10 acres; Construction cost: Withheld; Photographer: Jim Westphalen. ■ Resources: Bathroom plumbing fittings/fixtures: Kohler, Circle 428; Dishwasher: Bosch, Circle 429; Fireplace: Heat N' Glo, Circle 430; Garage doors: Overhead Door, Circle 431; Garbage disposal: KitchenAid, Circle 432; Hardware: Rocky Mountain Hardware, Circle 433; Kitchen plumbing fittings: Kohler, Circle 434; Kitchen plumbing fixtures: Eljer, Circle 435; Paints: Cabot, Circle 436; Patio doors: Marvin, Circle 437 and Simpson, Circle 438; Refrigerator: Amana, Circle 439; Windows: Marvin, Circle 440.



contractors across the country about sustainable construction practices. "Some small municipalities have great recycling facilities. Often it's just a question of asking around." Palo Alto's recycling facility doesn't handle construction waste like drywall and concrete, so Maran located another landfill slightly farther away that does. Many builders take their wood scraps to chipping facilities that turn the scraps into mulch; another common practice is donating leftover or salvaged materials to Habitat for Humanity and other housing-oriented nonprofits.

Why go to all the trouble of finding ways to recycle and then training subcontractors to sort materials? Those who have done it can list a dozen different reasons. "In Seattle, you can't afford not to recycle corrugated cardboard and concrete," says Alexander. "It's too expensive to haul them to the dump. There's a learning curve to it for everyone involved, but once you get a system down it's not hard." Recycling also reduces the amount of trash bin space a job requires. While that's not usually a significant fraction of the project's overall cost, it's still savings that a builder can pass on to his client. The same goes for tax deductions for donated materials. In a time when competition for jobs is stiffer than it's been in years, the ability to shave a few thousand dollars off the cost of a house while acting in a socially responsible manner is something that wealthy, sophisticated clients will notice. And, for builders like Maran who do a lot of