

HOME

AND DESIGN

IDEA HOUSE

Living green now

Lessons in earth-friendly design from our Green-Built Idea House

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY THOMAS J. STORY

Like a compact hybrid car, *Sunset's* Green-Built Idea House is modest in size but big in resource-efficient features. Comprising two side-by-side homes in Menlo Park, California—one decorated and one with cutaway wall sections to reveal construction techniques—the project is an introduction to the rapidly evolving world of eco-savvy design. And, thanks to photovoltaic panels that seamlessly blend into the tile roof, the homes can purr along comfortably—just like that hybrid—using the electricity they produce.

Previewed during construction in our October issue and at www.sunset.com/green, the project is part of a 47-unit development, with 20 residences priced below market for teachers and city employees.



Red leather Folio chairs and a Seguro mirror made of reclaimed peroba wood—all from Crate and Barrel (www.crateandbarrel.com)—set the stage for casual dining.

Three ways to go green



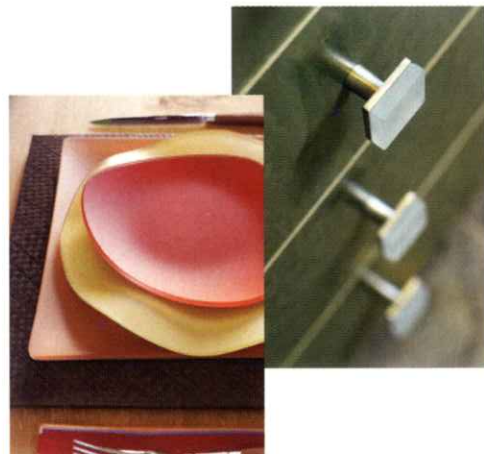
◀ Building components

The homes are earth-friendly in their efficient design—packing three bedrooms and three baths into 1,788 square feet—and in their use of eco-oriented elements such as formaldehyde-free insulation (*Johns Manville, www.jm.com*), low-emissivity window glass (*Pella Windows and Doors, www.pella.com*), a tankless water-heating system (*Rinnai Corporation, www.foreverhotwater.com*), and fiber-cement siding (*James Hardie Siding Products, www.jameshardie.com*)—not to mention the photovoltaic panels (*Kyocera Solar, www.kyocerasolar.com*).



◀ Materials and finishes

An elegant thin-striped bamboo flooring debuts in the great room and kitchen. The Vertical Gray stain from the GammaBamaBoo Collection (*GammaPar/Armin Maier and Associates, www.gammapar.com*) is nontoxic. The guest bath has a backsplash of 2- by 6-inch clay tiles from Fireclay Tile's Debris Series (*www.fireclaytile.com*), each of which contains recycled materials.



◀ Decor

Recycled glass is the key element in many of the Green-Built Idea House's striking modern accessories, such as the nested red, yellow, and orange plates from VivaTerra (*www.vivaterra.com*) on the dining table and the master bath's luminous rectangular glass drawer and cabinet pulls from SpectraDécor (*www.spectradecor.com*).





Green kitchen

The nonporous countertop, in Magellan Green by DuPont Zodiaq (www.zodiaq.com), is made from quartz crystals. The Amberwood Products (www.amberwoodproducts.com) cabinet shells are formaldehyde-free wheat-board. The red Kohler sinks (www.kohler.com) match decorative accents. Cabinet-door panels of translucent resin from 3form (www.3-form.com) contain reedlike thatch for an organic look.





Master bath

Recycled-glass tiles in sage green, gray, and chocolate hues from Sandhill Industries (www.sandhillind.com) frame the mirror, setting the room's color palette.



Green master suite

In the bath, gray-green quartzite tile from American Slate Company (www.american-slate.com) covers the floor and some walls. "We kept the tile pattern going in the same direction for a clean, architectural look," says interior designer Pamela Pennington. In the bedroom, the wall-to-wall carpet, Striations from Mohawk Flooring (www.mohawk-flooring.com), features a backing glued with nontoxic adhesives. ▶ 72



Master bedroom

A tranquil mood is created by crisp, contemporary cotton bedding, a soft-yellow accent wall in low-VOC (volatile organic compounds) Enviro-Cote from Kelly-Moore Paints (www.kellymoore.com), and a warm-toned wood bureau and side tables, from Crate and Barrel's new Asian-inspired Bento Collection.

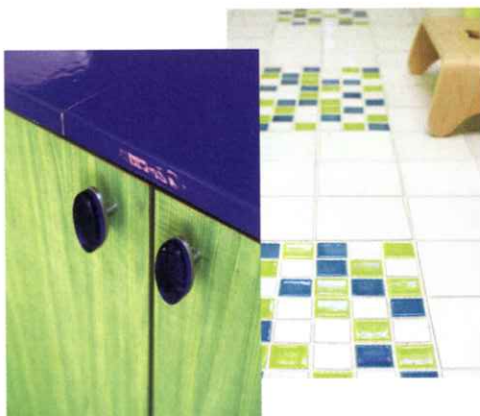


Multitask zone
Bright blues and greens enliven the laundry/playroom. The pale green non-toxic laminate veneer is by Abet Laminati (www.abetlaminati.com).

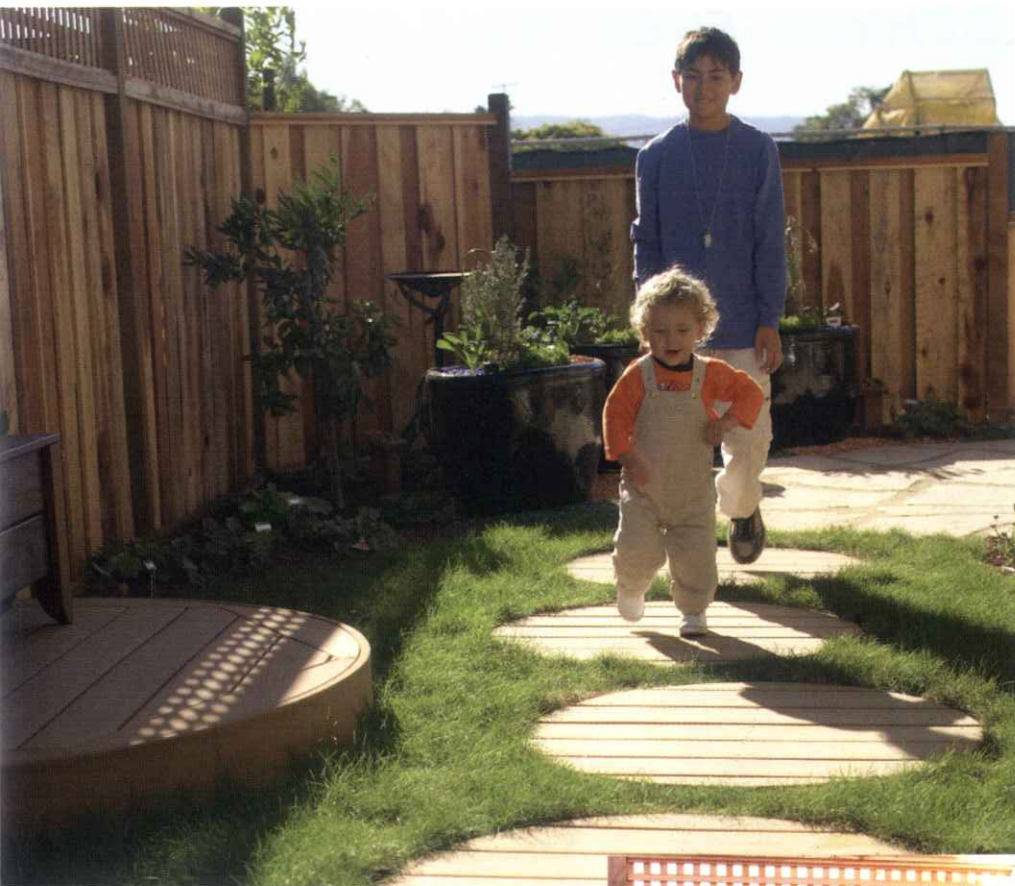


Green laundry/playroom

Cabinets conceal a water- and energy-frugal front-loading washer and dryer from GE (www.geappliances.com). The floor is engineered bamboo (Gammapar/Armin Maier and Associates). Cobalt blue recycled-glass knobs (SpectraDÉcor) match the lava-stone tile counter (Fireclay Tile). Teal and green floor tiles (Fireclay Tile) in the kids' bathroom are made of waste products derived from gravel, asphalt, and cement. ▶74



Children's bedrooms
Add personality with painted wainscoting (above): The blue and green stripes are low-VOC paint. For recyclable wall decor in the older child's room (left), we used Wallcandy Arts Dottilicious stick-on circles of various sizes from Giggle (www.egiggle.com).



Outdoor pavers

Circular stepping "stones" and a semicircular mini deck made of rot-resistant Trex (www.trex.com), a composite wood, punch up the design of a small outdoor space.



Backyard features

Above: A clean-burning natural gas-fueled barbecue from DCS (www.dcsappliances.com) fits into a dry-stacked retaining wall (www.calstone.com). Left: The walking surface is a mulch made by Grubble Products (www.grubblellc.com) of shredded brown-toned recycled tires.

Green backyard

A small outdoor space means every inch must count, so we made sure there was a variety of activity zones, including raised planting beds, a sandbox, and a compact flagstone patio. Tumbled dark and light blue recycled glass from Building REsources (415/285-7814) makes a colorful mulch, and stacked recycled concrete, stained rusty orange with ferrous sulfate, forms another raised bed. *



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State of California
Members of the Sustainable Building Task Force; California Energy Commission; San Mateo County RecycleWorks; California Integrated Waste Management Board

Nonprofit Partner
Peninsula Habitat for
Humanity

TOUR THIS IDEA HOUSE

Both homes are open 9-5 Fri-Sun through Jan 22 (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's week-ends); \$12, ages 5 and under free. Call 800/786-7375.

Special thanks to the City of Menlo Park