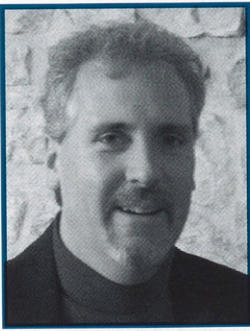


GREEN HOMEBUILDING PROGRAMS NATIONWIDE



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I've been writing about Green and High Performance residential design for a while now. It's about time you get a chance to hear someone else speak to the benefits of going green.

On **Wednesday, October 6, 2004** the HBA, (BucksMont) in conjunction with The Sustainable Buildings Industry Council (SBIC)

will be hosting a half-day Green Building Guidelines seminar at Williamson Restaurant in Horsham. This seminar will serve as an overview on Green Building Methods and introduce the basic concept of Green Building Design to those interested in exploring the notion that sustainable buildings are not only good for buyers, but they are also good for the building industry.

Though the seminar is geared toward builders, it is relevant to everyone including architects, suppliers, government officials, and homebuyers.

The seminar will be based on "whole building" design principles and will follow the book *Green Building Guidelines: Meeting the Demand for Low-Energy, Resource Efficient Homes* which will be distributed at the event. A committee of builders, architects, scientists and product manufacturers developed this book over a two and a half year period. It is a brief, reader-friendly text that is applicable to homebuilders everywhere. The "whole building" design looks at materials, systems and assemblies from many different perspectives. The entire home design and building process has been evaluated for cost, quality-of-life, future flexibility, ease of maintenance, energy and resource efficiency, overall environmental impact, productivity, creativity and the ways in which the occupant will be enriched and enlivened by their surroundings.

Though you may be aware that residential buildings consume approximately 20% of America's energy every year in the form of energy consumption and maintenance needs, you may not know how easy it is to improve efficiency dramatically. Using the Green Building Guidelines when designing a home can lower energy consumption by as much as 30-50%. When these guidelines are used in the design and construction of new homes it results in improved comfort, water-efficiency savings and improved indoor environmental quality. By using these guidelines, a more energy-efficient home can be realized without increasing costs. This not only makes Green Building Design desirable to homebuyers and homebuilders, but to the community as a whole.

The presenter of this seminar will be Ron Jones. Ron is owner of Sierra Custom Builders in Placitas, New Mexico. His national award winning company specializes in challenging site projects and environmentally appropriate construction. Ron's award winning projects have been featured in numerous national and regional publications and have also received acclaim on Home and Garden Television's "Dream Builders" where they were cited for innovation in all aspects of Green Building practices. With his experience being gathered from a "hands on" approach, Ron is able to

teach others a great deal about Green Building Designs. In 1994 the HBA of Central New Mexico named him "Builder of the Year". In 2001 he received New Mexico HBA's highest award, the "Don Martin Leadership Award" and was named New Mexico's HBA builder member of the year.

Like it or not Green building has become a very important issue with regard to the way homebuilders are perceived.

Aside from image, genuine green design and construction can help America reduce its consumption of limited resources and ultimately bring down the long-term cost of home ownership. This Green Building Guidelines seminar will provide much-needed information for anyone involved in the home building industry. Keep an eye out for the HBA's form to sign up before the event is sold out.



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