



Helping clients get more from their home...
and more from life.

HOMESTYLE

Elegant living — set clearly above the rest.

Fall 2007

CUSTOM CONSTRUCTION & REMODELING

JUST WHAT EXACTLY IS A GREEN HOME? ACCORDING TO THE U.S. GREEN



BUILDING COUNCIL (USGBC), A GREEN HOME IS ONE THAT USES LESS ENERGY, WATER AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES; CREATES LESS WASTE; AND PROVIDES A HEALTHIER LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR ITS RESIDENTS.

GREEN SINCE THE BEGINNING

Creating environmentally-friendly homes has always been central to Summit's philosophy of designing exteriors that blend with the landscape and interiors that utilize sunlight and other factors to add ambiance and also keep utility costs manageable.

"I've seen that the leading exclusive custom builders take a more comprehensive view of green building than builders in general," explained Monte Viker, Summit partner. "Sustainable construction is about always exceeding building codes and using the highest-quality materials and technology. Doing so will decrease both energy use and the need for repairs and renovations that would be costly to both the owner as well as the environment." Green-related materials and processes that Summit and other exclusive builders typically utilize include:

- Engineered lumber (made from by-products) for sub-floors, roof joists and other hidden areas.
- Alternative high efficiency heating and cooling systems such as geothermal technology.
- The latest insulation techniques such as sprayed-on closed cell foam, shown above, that nearly doubles the insulating factor.



GREEN BUILDING BENEFITS

The USGBC reports that average green construction savings range from up to 30% on energy costs, 35% on carbon emissions, 30-50% on water use savings, and 50-90% on waste costs.

Building green costs an average of 3-5% more than standard building practices, and the fees are typically recovered over 3-5 years. Owners benefit from lower utility costs, and commercial property owners report being able to rely on higher lease rates from tenants.



Smart use of window design and placement can add ambiance and reduce utility costs.

ABOUT SUMMIT For over 25 years we've been southeastern Minnesota's clear leader in elite custom homebuilding. Our success springs from a commitment to craftsmanship, artistry and authentic style.

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- Custom Design
- Custom Construction
- Custom Remodeling
- Home Maintenance

www.SummitCustomHomes.net



LEADERSHIP IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (LEED)

This nationally-based new construction certification program is based on six key criteria:

one / Site selection and planning

four / Materials and resources

two / Water efficiency

five / Indoor environmental quality

three / Energy management

six / Innovation and design

All Summit Homes will be tested and certified as part of the LEED program. Summit has retained the Minneapolis-based Building Knowledge Consulting Group (BKCG) to ensure they meet both Minnesota Green Star and LEED criteria. "We've found that these programs and their incentives are highly effective in helping clients benefit from sustainable construction practices while receiving a fairly rapid return on their investment in green materials, processes and technologies," explained Ed Von Thoma, BKCG president.



Building KNOWLEDGE

Ideas and solutions for building better homes.

GREEN INCENTIVES

Incentives from the state of Minnesota, the federal government and energy companies are available to support sustainable building practices. They include:

- Mortgage and home equity rate discounts
- Rebates on building materials and products
- Preferred utility rates
- Preferred homeowner and health insurance rates
- Grants

MINNESOTA GREENSTAR

Just launched, this program will support both new construction and remodeling. A project that is registered and meets requirements will be certified as a Minnesota Green Home or Green Remodel.



For more information on sustainable building practices and incentives, a longer article is available at www.SummitCustomHomes.net/news.htm or contact:

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MINNESOTA GREEN STAR
www.minnesotagreenstar.org

ENJOY OUR LATEST DREAM HOME.

We so love Victorian homes that we collaborated with Design Forte to create this Queen Anne design, named it *Sunnyside*, and drew up the plans. It's a classic—copper finials on all turrets; a sweeping wraparound porch; and a delightful farmhouse interior with a show-stopping central rotunda and spiral staircase.



Left elevation

Front elevation



Because we only build one-of-a-kind homes, Sunnyside is available exclusively for the first interested client. Contact Jack, Janet or Monte for more details.