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# Foreword

Green construction practices aim to cut back the environmental affect of buildings, so the very first rule is: the greenest construction is the construction that doesn't get constructed.

New construction almost always degrades a construction site, so not construction is preferred to green construction. The 2nd rule is: every construction ought to be as little as possible. The 3rd rule is: do not contribute to sprawl (the tendency is for metropolises to spread out in a disordered fashion). Regardless how much grass you put on your roof, regardless how energy-efficient windows, etc., you utilize, if you contribute to sprawl, you've defeated your purpose. Urban infill sites are preferred to suburban "greenfield" sites.

## ***Going Green Construction***

An Insider's Look At The Trend In Green Construction

# Chapter 1:

## *Introduction*

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### **Synopsis**

Construction accounts for a big amount of land. According to the National Resources Inventory, just about 107 million acres of land in the U.S. is developed. Another study was released that a publication that calculated that existing buildings are responsible for more than forty percent of the world's entire primary energy consumption and for twenty-four percent of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.



## **The Basics**

The idea of sustainable development may be traced to the energy (particularly fossil oil) crisis and the environment pollution interest in the '70s. The green construction movement in the United States originated from the need and want for more energy effective and environmentally friendly construction patterns.

There are a number of motives for green construction, including environmental, economical, and social advantages. All the same, modern sustainability initiatives demand an integrated and synergistic design to both new construction and in the retrofitting of subsisting structures.

Also known as sustainable design, this plan of attack integrates the construction life-cycle with every green practice employed with a design-purpose to produce a synergy among the practices utilized.

Green construction draws together a huge array of practices, strategies, and skills to cut back and finally eliminate the impacts of buildings on the environment and human wellness. It frequently emphasizes capitalizing of renewable resources, e.g.

Utilizing sunshine through passive solar, active solar and photovoltaic gear, and utilizing plants and trees with green roofs, rain gardens, and reduction of rain run-off. A lot of additional strategies are utilized, like utilizing low-impact construction materials or utilizing

packed gravel or permeable concrete rather than established concrete or asphalt to enhance replacement of ground water.

While the patterns or technologies employed in green construction are perpetually evolving and might differ from area to area, basic principles persist from which the technique is derived

The essence of green construction is an optimization of one or more of these precepts. Likewise, with the right synergistic design, individual green construction technologies might work together to create a greater cumulative effect.

On the aesthetical side of green architecture or sustainable design is the doctrine of designing a construction that's in harmony with the natural features and resources surrounding the site.

There are a lot of key steps in designing sustainable buildings: define 'green' construction materials from local sources, cut back loads, optimize systems, and render on-site renewable power.

# **Chapter 2:**

## *What Does Green Construction Mean*

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### **Synopsis**

Green construction is more than insulated windows, solar hot-water heaters and Energy Star(tm)-rated appliances. It's likewise the technique in which construction and demolition waste is disposed.

Those who have engaged in big construction projects or merely walked around a construction site may testify that the amount of waste yielded is staggering.

Nail-filled 2 x 4s, pop cans, broken drywall and scrap flooring materials litter the job site. Frequently, little effort has been made to sort out the debris into functional and unusable piles.



## **What Does It Mean**

The terms of waste management and conservation are cut back, recycle, and reuse. In a green project, these 3 policies are applied from beginning to end. LEED Certification, along with its accompanying tax savings, is only allotted to those projects that may prove that over fifty percent of any waste matter generated because of construction or demolition didn't find its way into a landfill.

Decently sorting and throwing away of waste materials is more expensive than ditching bucket load after bucket load into a trash bin. This is an additional expense, but with more municipalities requiring significant deposits that are only refunded if an arranged amount waste is diverted from landfills, it's a necessary expense.

Decently training construction workers in onsite separation strategies may greatly cut back expenses affiliated with green waste disposal.

Recycling has gotten to be a general phrase that covers all alternate means of refuse disposal, however its true meaning is really specific.

Recycling is the act of transforming a material into a wholly fresh product. It's the most ineffective and least cost-effective of the rules. Transporting waste materials to reprocessing centers is an expensive procedure.

As ineffective as recycling is, it is preferable to dumping waste in a landfill. Scrap shingles are reprocessed into asphalt. Cardboard may be reprocessed into other paper products.

Reprocessed metals are formed into nails that may be utilized in later construction proposes. Contractors may save cash by pre-sorting any recyclables before taking them to a facility.

A great deal of the wood utilized for scaffolding during the rough framing procedure might be utilized to construct garden sheds. The wood isn't pretty, but it's still usable. Broken bricks are utilized for backfill.

A lot of rehabbers depend upon found wood flooring to give their projects a vintage or antique feeling. All of these are illustrations of reusing waste materials rendered in construction and demolition. Reusing doesn't call for any processing of materials. Materials may frequently be sold directly from the construction site.

With measured planning, the most potent and consistent of green measures may be carried out. Reducing the amount of materials necessary and the amount of waste rendered solves the issue of construction waste before there's an issue.

Drywall, wood, and cardboard are the most common wastes on a job site. It's easy to cut back the amount of waste if heedful consideration is given to precisely how much is needed per job. This reduces

expenses and encourages overall efficiency on the job site. Suitable planning around available materials step-ups productivity.

Green construction isn't cheap, but it's the new standard. Construction companies that apply these techniques now will be ahead of the curve when they are no longer a choice but a requirement.



# Chapter 3:

## *Making Your Current Home More Energy Efficient*

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### Synopsis

There are a lot of simple, low cost and very effective ways that we give the sack make our present homes more environmentally friendly without breaking the bank. You'll be amazed at how much energy you are able to save by taking the even easiest of steps!



## **Be Wiser**

The simplest thing we may all do is monitor our thermostats. In the more frigid, winter months it's imperative to heat the home only if you're there. For instance, if you're out of the house during the workday, then keep it to a minimum setting.

Today's homes heat reasonably quickly and a few minutes of discomfort as your home warms up may greatly impact your heating bill and energy consumption.

If you and your family are sleeping, make sure to turn the thermostat back down. If your thermostat isn't currently on a timer, you ought to look into having one installed.

Additional ways to keep your home warm during the winter months involve just a couple of easy and basic steps. Check your windows and doors for drafts and caulk as needed. Make certain your attic and walls are well insulated. Schedule regular maintenance checks for your furnace to guarantee optimal performance.

During the summertime months it's most beneficial to keep the thermostat set to 78 degrees. Air conditioners utilize a ton of energy and electricity and their utilization ought to be kept to a lower limit if possible. Standing fans, window fans and ceiling fans are all much greater choices.

During the day you are able to keep the house dramatically cooler by lowering all shades and curtains.

It might seem so easy and likely you have heard it again and again, but really you ought to turn the water off if you are brushing your teeth. For every time you brush and the water is off, you save 4.5 gallons of water.

As well your morning shower may sabotage your water bill. By merely changing a showerhead with a low-flow model you are able to save 15-25 gallons of water a day.

It might be wise to likewise install low-flow toilets and add aerators to all your faucets. In the kitchen add a water filtration system (like Britta) to your faucet and refill your own plastic recyclable water bottles which will cut back your plastic water bottle consumption, therefore fewer bottles floating around.

Replace present incandescent bulbs with fluorescent ones. Attempt to replace as many as possible. Just one light bulb swap will save over 400 pounds of greenhouse gasses. In some countries, incandescent light bulbs are no longer permitted. Cut any unused lights. This may seem obvious but so many individuals still walk out of a room and leave the light on.

If your appliances are aged you might want to think about replacing them with newer, more energy efficient models. This adds up, not only if you plan on being in your house for a while, but likewise if you plan on selling it in the near future. New appliances are really attractive to house buyers. Either way you'll get your money's worth as well as save on your power bill.

Do seek appliances with the Energy Star logo on them. If just one in every 10 houses, according to the Energy Star site, utilized an energy efficient appliance, the energy saved would be the equal of planting 1.7 million acres of trees. Unplug any idle appliance.

If you plan on doing any important work to your house, home improvements or restorations make sure to look into all the possible environmentally friendly options out there.

If you're planning on painting utilize a low VOC (volatile organic compound) paint. In the baths opt for fixtures that save water and power. In the kitchen select materials for counters and floors that have been reused or are organic and earth friendly like cork and bamboo.

# Chapter 4:

## *Green Architecture*

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### Synopsis

Sustainable, green and ecological are all words affiliated with rising architecture in the 21st century. However what precisely is it? A lot businesses and house owners are constructing green buildings, but how come? Read on to learn about what green architecture is and what its procedures and possibilities are.





## **Green Building**

Shelter is an essential component for survival. However like many other things produced by humans, it has an effect on the planet.

Eighty-five percent of all new homes in the U.S. are framed with wood. If all the dimensional lumber utilized to construct the new homes every year in the U.S. was laid end to end would extend 3 million miles -- to the moon and back 6 1/2 times.

The U.S. Isn't the only country to utilize so many natural resources in architecture, not simply in the building of buildings and homes but burning fossil fuels to run them, which causes a dire amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

A lot of scientists think this contributes to global warming. By applying green architectural design that meets human needs while minimally affecting the environment, it is not only better for the planet and its wildlife but for the human race's present and future wellness and longevity.

Sincerely green buildings are LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified. The LEED Green Building scoring system is a program formulated and administered by the non-profit U.S. Green Building Council.

Buildings are ranked based on 6 classes: sustainable site development, water efficiency, power efficiency and the atmosphere, materials selection, inside environmental quality and innovation in design. Buildings may be rated silver, gold or platinum.

In a lot of cases, when a new building or home is constructed, the land is detracted from in some manner and affected harmfully.

Green architecture endeavors to affect the surrounding land as minimally as conceivable and in some cases better the land if possible. Architectural firms have formulated over the last few years that are dedicated to green design.

Utilizing local resources, local workmanship and using what the geographical location has to provide is crucial in green design. Positioning a building to have maximum sunlight to heat and illuminate is something to think about.

Other people are using post consumer or reusable materials like bamboo or stone for things like walks, low-flush toilets, low-flow faucets and water-free urinals, low-emitting sealers, paints and additional construction materials and utilizing hydroelectric and solar sources for energy.

Suitable recycling and waste management are compulsory for a green building.

Green architecture isn't simply building a structure that is considerate of the environment. To be a 'green' architect, you have to have a sense of awareness that extends past human comfort to the security and consideration of the surroundings

The notion of sustainability is a natural propagation of wholeness-based thinking and is intermingled into each project.



# **Chapter 5:**

## ***Environmentally Friendly Building Materials***

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### **Synopsis**

Green construction is a dynamic field that's constantly evolving with the coming of fresh technology, the economic system and social change.

The fame of sustainable building has increased in recent years in reaction to growing concerns about global climate change, as well as the slumping supply of renewable resources.

Particular building materials and techniques are considered "greener" than others as they have qualities that downplay their impact on the Earth. Nontoxic, renewable, sturdy, or recycled products might be considered green.

## **Materials**

Flooring is a great place to begin when attempting to make greener building selections. A few woods are less renewable than others, and carpeting frequently contains VOCs (volatile organic compounds) that have a damaging impact on indoor air quality. Bamboo has gotten to be a popular choice for flooring, as it replenishes really quickly.

Cork, which is removed from the exterior of a living tree at intervals, is attractive, natural, really renewable and gentle on the body. Additional green flooring options include sisal, eucalyptus, reused carpet tiles, reused rubber, wool carpeting, linoleum and reclaimed wood.

On drives and walkways, particularly engineered cement that's porous and lets water sink in instead of runoff and pollute waterways is environmentally friendly.

Likewise, utilizing light-colored concrete, peculiarly in urban areas, helps reduce temperature. For buildings, a comparatively new technology called TX Active has emerged, which in reality "eats" pollution.

Insulation is really crucial in green construction as it helps conserve energy. In the past, asbestos was utilized for insulation, but it's since

been banned or restricted in a lot of countries because of health perils. Great sustainable choices for insulation are those made from reused paper and wood pulp, soy, cotton, recycled plastic or cork.

A green roof is enshrouded in vegetation that minimizes runoff.

A crucial feature of green roofing is its durability; sustainability may frequently be as simple as avoiding or limiting waste. Composite cedar shingles reject moisture, mildew and insects, which prolongs their life.

Metal roofing materials that have solar reflective qualities likewise have benefits, particularly in hot climates. Living roofs, which are covered in substantial plant life, reduce the "heat island effect" that's stimulated by a lack of evaporation in areas that have a lot of concrete and asphalt surfaces.

Breakthroughs in applied science have made glass a popular green building material. Windows manufactured of layered panes separated by sealed, gas-filled compartments supply insulation that preserves energy. Additionally, windows and doors may likewise be covered in special low-emissivity coatings that utilize or block natural solar rays to help govern indoor temperatures.

# Chapter 6:

## *Environmentally Friendly Maintenance Material*

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### Synopsis

Shifting from chemical and disposable cleaning products to greener alternatives isn't only more environmentally friendly; it's less expensive and better for your family. Simple, readily useable products are likewise safe for your septic system. Learning to make them will help you reach your green goals. Once you've assembled a collection of these products, you will be able to assemble a cleaning agent for any maintenance purpose.



## Keeping It Up

Stock up on the things for natural, homemade housecleaning supplies. Distilled white vinegar works as a wash softener and deodorizer as well as a mighty cleansing agent for non-porous surfaces. Baking soda soaks up odors, is an abrasive factor for cleanup and reacts with vinegar to power away drain backs up and clean hard stains.

Olive oil conditions and cleans up- wood products. These 3 things, available at your food market, will clean about everything in your home without chemicals.

Put together your own laundry soap. Bars of washing soap are found at markets. Grate one and mix with 1 cupful of Borax and 1 cupful of washing soda.

These washing booster amplifiers turn the grated soap into an ultra- laundry detergent. You'll only require 1 tablespoonful to wash a standard load of grimy clothes. Without additives to encourage suds or to whiten or scent the soap, this is a green option to commercial detergents.

Utilize recyclable cleaning supplies like a standard mop, which is a greener answer than a system that utilizes throwaway pads, or make your own washable pads to utilize with the mop that



would ordinarily utilize the disposable pads. Utilize cloth rags rather than paper towels whenever you are able to, and reduce the number of paper towels you'll have to dispose of in the landfill. Utilize sponges rather than paper towels, as well.

Reuse paper as housekeeping supplies. Utilize paper rather than paper towels to clean your windows, and shred paper to utilize as pet bedding or cat litter.

Remove chemical cleaning products from your house. For each, there's a greener alternative. Assess your need for each cleaning product you currently own, and acquire a more environmentally friendly option.

Even the most erosive chemical concoctions have green options. For example, vinegar and baking soda will clean an oven as well as commercial oven cleanser. This pair will likewise unclog a drain as well as drain cleansers made chemically.

# Chapter 7:

## *The Green Approach To Landscaping*

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### Synopsis

Preserving the environment may begin in your own backyard if you discover how to landscape with an eco-friendly design that will work with minimum maintenance. From man-made turf to low-water plants, find eco-friendly landscaping tips here to make your backyard greener.



## **Landscaping**

Reconfiguring your outdoor space is the greatest way to be thoughtful towards Mother Nature. Utilizing the right plant materials in the correct places, so that it will still look great in 10 years with minimum maintenance is what we want to accomplish. Regrettably, many individuals still think this means a dry, desolate look -- and they're totally wrong. Here are a few earth-friendly tips for landscaping.

The U.S. EPA says, "Care over a 10-year span for a non-native turf grass landscape may cost nearly 7 times more than the cumulative costs of care for a native prairie or wetland. Seeking an amazing way to save cash and save water? Think about removing your water-guzzling grass and trading it for synthetic turf to save a bunch on your water bill. Check with your city to see if any rebate plans are available.

Taking away your turf grass isn't the sole tip for landscaping to save cash and water. By cutting back the amount of space your lawn takes up, you may still keep your dear green grass and sustain a more eco-friendly design. Merely replace lawn space with low-maintenance plant life, an eco-friendly terrace or low-impact walkway.

Downplay the affect your landscaping has on the Earth's resources and maximize your eco-friendly design by seeking the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) approval. Make certain to avoid wood

treated chemically by choosing a rot-resistant species grown in your area.

Have a look around your place for materials you may recycle or reuse to reduce waste and save cash. Ask neighbors for materials they aren't going to utilize or inquire at local building sites for stuff that may be salvaged.

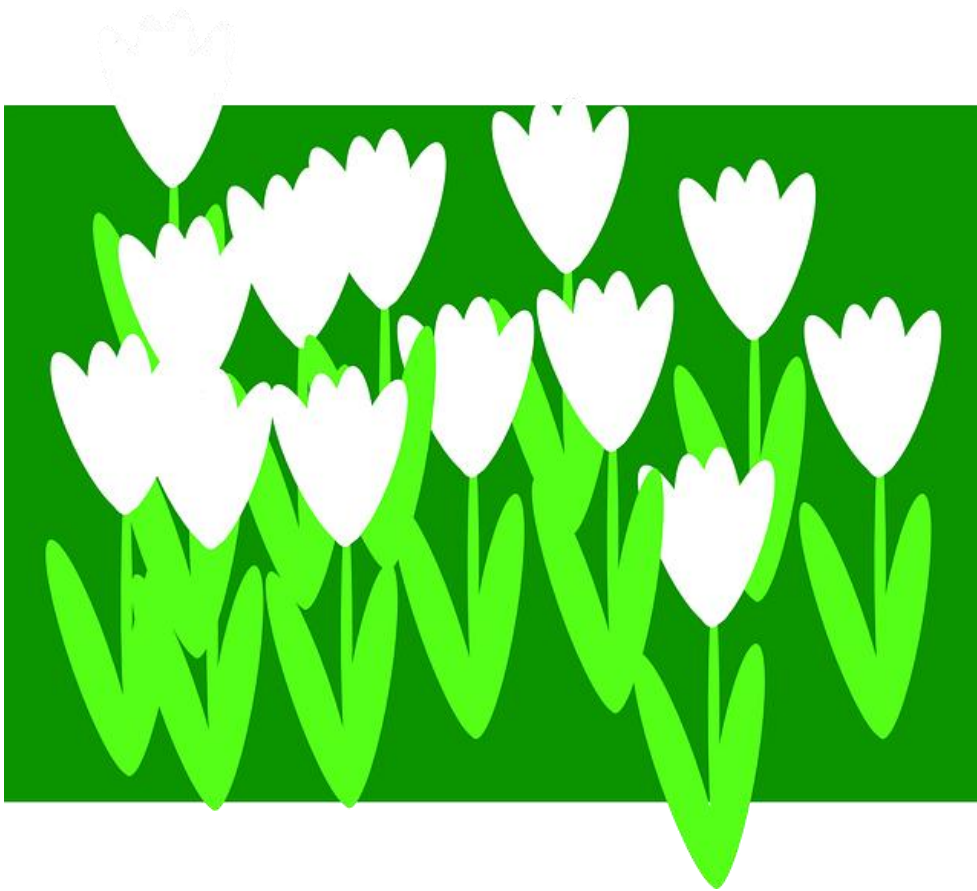
Selecting drought-resistant plants won't only save water, but likewise cuts back pruning maintenance. All the same, cactus and yucca aren't your only alternatives.

Ornamental grasses, asters, pansies, marigolds and tulips all resist the bad rap low-maintenance plant life commonly gets. Planting clover might bring good luck to your landscape, as it's naturally insect-resistant and manages well against weeds, cutting down your need for pesticides and weed killer.

Or check into xeriscaping to group plants by watering need and reduce the total of water you use overall.

Did you know that a strategically situated tree may help save power in your home? Or that channeling summer breezes to your house may cut down the total of energy you use? Research your region on the U.S. Department of Energy's landscaping map to find energy-conserving tips for landscaping in your region.

With a couple of tips for landscaping your outside space with an eco-friendly design, you may green up your backyard and make Mother Nature feel better. Just make sure to research which plants and trees work best for your region before you dig in. With these tips, you may learn how to landscape to preserve cash, energy, water and your time, so you may spend less time doing yard work and more time savoring your backyard!



# Chapter 8:

## *Environmentally Friendly Communities*

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### Synopsis

There are a lot of methods to set a city's eco-friendly ranking, yet no individual standard is a full measurement of a region's environmental dedication. If you compare a city's performance in curbing air pollution, using renewable power or building sustainable buildings, you will discover that no single city ranks at the top of each. As a consequence, the best approach to evaluating the most eco-friendly U.S. cities is to see which cities rate most highly in a few central green measurements.



## **The Top Communities**

According to the Urban Land Institute, the San Francisco metropolitan area has the least greenhouse gas pollution for each person of any big municipality in the U.S., with New York and Philadelphia coming in 2nd and 3rd.

These communities share 3 crucial features: an elevated density of population, an effective transit system and expanded warm-weather temperature seasons. By cutting back the urban sprawl common in a lot of non-coastal regions, these 3 cities supply centralized services without the need for undue car traffic and prevent the overuse of coal-fired electric power.

The U.S. EPA Green Power Partnership program suggests renewable power use, and brings out regular reports detailing which cities have bought the biggest amount of green power instead of fossil fuel generated energy.

In 2011, the top 3 cities were in Texas: Houston, Austin and Dallas. Coming in 4th was Washington D.C. Every city bought over 244 million kW-hrs of wind-generated electricity in place of coal- or natural gas-fired energy plants that would have added high levels of carbon and other greenhouse emissions to the atmosphere.

The EPA grants structures with its Energy Star Certified identification for voluntarily exceeding established benchmarks for power efficiency in lighting use, heating and air-conditioning use and additional central measurements.

LA led the U.S. in the number of Energy Star Certified buildings from 08 to 2011. Washington, D.C. held 2nd place in 2010 and 2011, and its qualified structures are credited with precluding emissions up to more than 12,000 homes' electrical use. Atlanta, Georgia placed 3rd in 2011.

The top ten eco-friendly cities from the above classes are, in no certain order: New York, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Houston, Dallas, Austin, LA, Atlanta and Washington, D.C. Only the nation's capital comes out twice among the top 4 of any green city list, which implies that its community leaders might have established a goal to showcase Washington as first in war, first in peace and first amid eco-friendly U.S. cities.



# Chapter 9:

## *Finding A “Green” Builder*

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### Synopsis

Finding a green designer or green builder is a lot like employing any sort of professional -- you have to understand where to look and what enquiries to make prior to you committing to a green designer. While sustainable architecture isn't new, the construction trades have been notoriously behind at incorporating sustainable practices into the building procedure. Here's how to get started in finding a green designer.



## Seeking Green

The nature of the project will commonly decide whether a green designer or a green builder or contractor is used. A new building will commonly need the expertise of a green designer, but for a small addition or a refurbishment, the services of a green builder might be enough.

Commonly, a designer will design the building and produce a set of blueprints, then turn those drawings over to a builder or builders for bids. There's nothing inherently wrong with that, but a few experts have discovered that builders -- who are frequently more familiar with on-site work -- are occasionally able to find alternative materials, systems and layouts that may better energy efficiency and additional green building conditions.

As a result, a few green builders want to work in conjunction with designers to fine-tune building plans prior to finalizing for approval. Not all designers, however, like to work this way, preferring rather to finish a set of building drawings prior to builders' bids. At a minimum, attempt to get a green designer who's open to the notion of revising plans based on the inspection of a green builder.

There's a saying in the building trades: It's a great project when the customer talks a lot at the beginning, however it's an awful project when the customer talks a lot at the end. Speak up about your

thoughts, hopes and demands before work begins, and save yourself from a lot of complaining, expense and grief after the work is completed.

Nowhere is that more truthful than in green construction. Because the word "green" is so unclear and open to interpretation by individuals who don't truly understand it, make certain your green designer or builder understands even before they're employed that sustainable materials and healthy, safe, energy-efficient schemes like electric, plumbing and heating, ventilation and air-conditioning are a top priority on your plan.

Naturally, these conversations are much simpler with a designer or builder with whom you have a natural rapport. That sort of chemistry and exuberance is invaluable in making your project go simpler throughout what might otherwise be a really hard process. A smart way to begin is to bring a designer or builder into the conversation early, prior to making any difficult decisions about the construction site, building orientation or additional basics.

When you're ready to go, how do you find a great green designer or builder in your region? Word of mouth may be priceless in your search, particularly as you'll prefer to talk with former customers and visit projects that your green builder or designer has finished.

Besides random Net searches, a lot of individuals have found great information on green designers and builders through the U.S. Green

Building Council (USGBC), a non-profit group committed to the evolution of cost-efficient, energy-saving green homes, offices and additional buildings. The best-known purpose of the USGBC is their Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, program. The USGBC likewise sustains a list of green professionals, including designers, builders and contractors on their site.

The American Institute of architects has likewise adopted sustainable design and green buildings, and has a wealth of data on their AIA site. The AIA likewise lets visitors search for member designers by area, specialty and building sort.

Lastly, have a look at the portfolio (online or physical) of the green designer or builder. Not all green construction is alike, naturally, and a green house with a sleek, modernist design won't fulfill a lover of traditional, colonial-style houses -- and a green builder who works chiefly with traditional designs won't be the greatest choice for somebody who appreciates modern-day design.

Once again, remember to speak up at the very outset of the project to guarantee that your priorities are understood and dealt with.

# Chapter 10:

## *Finding Plans And Kits For Green Construction And The Benefits*

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### Synopsis

100s of variables go into the selection of a new house plan: your family size, your personal discernments, furnishings, your lot and costs, among a lot of others. It's a little simpler to sort through 1000s of available plans and find the ones you love if you simply center on a particular type of home: one perfect for your lot, your geographic area or your ethics.



## **Some Hints**

If you like a greener home, look for one that's compact, with most of its living space close to an imaginary center axis, for the most effective air circulation. Open floor plans will help, particularly with generous utilization of ceiling fans. In non-flooding areas, homes built partly underground are really efficient for heating and cooling, and generous utilization of skylights in open floor plans guarantees a lot of sunshine.

You are able to build surprisingly nice houses in narrow lots. Victorians lend themselves well to narrow lots, for example, and shotgun-style houses were designed specifically to fit in slim lots also.

But, it's hard to match spacious house plans with small- and odd-shape lots. For these, chuck the house plan books and go to a designer who specializes in compact design. You'll pay a bit more up front, but you'll have a great home that appraises higher and that you love to live in.

Not every family is 2 parents, 2 youngsters, one pet. Your family might have a grandparent moving in or a youngster in a wheelchair, or include 7 kids or need a home office. If you presently have or expect special needs, make certain you plan accordingly. You could for example, opt for a home with a

mother-in-law apartment if you have an aged parent moving in who'd like to maintain independence, or if you have an older adolescent who will be staying home for college. Young households planning more youngsters ought to seek houses that are simple to build additions to, or that have big bonus rooms. Families with mobility problems could select only one-story homes with easy access.

There's a great reason A-frame houses are more common in the north and flat-roofed Spanish designs are popular to the south. Snow slides off the A-frame's roof without breaking it, and hurricane-force winds tend to blow over flat-roofed houses.

Think about nature's effects in your region while selecting house plans. Lots of tornados? Make certain you have a cellar and beneficial home ventilation. Flooding an issue? Build on a slab or with a crawl space foundation or even stilts if you're on lower ground.

If you need a bit more than a plan, you could think about a kit home, a home construction staple that's been around since the Craftsman time period of the early 1900s. Both Sears-Roebuck and Montgomery Ward sold kit houses through catalogs.

These kit houses were in essence pre-cut supplies and finishing labeled and numbered with not simply plans but construction directions. Today, you are able to still discover kit homes, most

commonly log homes. They're perfect for do-it-yourselfers who need a little more than home plans; particularly those who'd like to put their own ending touches on a home.

There are 5 chief benefits to living in a green home, everything from a better return on investment to having a favorable environmental impact:

- A healthier house environment through bettered indoor air quality.
- A more comfy home due to fewer temperature variations.
- A return on investment through power savings and less maintenance costs.
- A favorable environmental impact.
- A reduction in the utilization of natural resources.



# Wrapping Up

The amazing thing about the word "green" is that it captures 2 of the most crucial things that most individuals care about: their health, and their cash. And there's a wonderful 3rd reason to go green: The community advantages in the long run, as it's better for the planet.

