

The Green team

Local companies get TV time for 'green' housing program

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Farmington Hills-based Community 1st Development, a real estate company focused on urban residential redevelopment, neighborhood rehabilitation and "green built" homes, has captured the interest of the Discovery Channel's Renovation Nation for its efforts to rehabilitate blighted neighborhoods with affordable, green homes.



From left, Steve Thomas, host of Planet Green's "Renovation Nation;" Mark Lewis, partner of Community 1st; and Howard Davis, principal of Davis Davis Interior Design.

Community 1st is a collaborative effort of Farmington Hills-based companies Lewis/Klein Properties and R & H Development, who partnered together in a mission to rebuild and revitalize blighted neighborhoods in Detroit and surrounding municipalities, in turn, providing a foundation for re-energizing communities.

In conjunction with state and federal housing authorities, local municipalities and non-profit agencies, the organization provides a range of vital resources necessary to facilitate home ownership for low to moderate income individuals. This includes significant grant, tax abatement and educational components.

In bringing the energy efficient concept from drawing board to reality, Community 1st consulted with Davis & Davis Interior Design, also of

Farmington Hills. Davis & Davis' expertise and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) accredited professionals worked collaboratively with Community 1st to help create an efficient, affordable, sustainable green home inside and out, from windows to insulation to appliances.

“Community 1st truly allows us to help individuals who have been unable to purchase a home realize the American Dream by building quality homes they can afford and providing them the tools to sustain ownership of their homes throughout the term of their mortgages,” said Mark Lewis, partner in Community 1st. “Our partnerships and collaborations have been vital in this effort.”

Community 1st homes meet Michigan Green Built specifications and are Energy Star qualified. Features within the home allow residents to save as much as 30 percent on utility bills and include a complete Energy Star Whirlpool appliance package, a high efficiency furnace and central air conditioning



From left, Steve Thomas, host of Planet Green's "Renovation Nation;" the Reynolds family, and Mark Lewis, partner of Community 1st.

unit, enhanced wall and ceiling insulation, Energy Star light fixtures and exhaust fans and Pella windows, among other features. Home buyers may choose from five different floor plans, ranging from 1,300 to 2,100 square feet.

The efforts of Community 1st, with counsel from Davis & Davis, in its initial projects to revitalize the city of Detroit with green-built homes, captured the attention of Discovery Channel subsidiary network Planet Green's Renovation Nation. The show features unique efforts in green home building renovation or construction projects. A production crew for Renovation Nation filmed the installation of the neighborhood's first home on May 13.

The construction of the house marks the first dwelling for Community 1st's Alter Commons neighborhood, located in the Jefferson Chalmers area of Detroit's far east side. Alter Commons is one of three neighborhood developments Community 1st is planning.

Visit www.Community1stDevelopment.com for more information.

<http://www.hometownlife.com/article/20090531/LIFE/905310393/1098>