

DECATUR

LIVING

KITCHEN

Thinking Globally, Building Green Locally

Renewal Construction
Green Renovations



Plus
Healing Arts
Integrated Therapy
Local Artist

EXISTING
PORCH

by Susan Hunsigner
Photography by Terry Greene

Easy Being Green

Renewal's Oakhurst
Renovation to Star
on New TV Show



Before photo

“Your health isn’t just about exercising and eating well,” says Peter Michelson, CEO of Renewal Construction. “Your home is inextricably tied to your health and the overall environment—the quality of air you breathe, the water you drink and use, even the way you heat and cool your house.”

“People are beginning to make important links between their homes and the larger environmental picture. Renewal has been a proponent of eco-conscious choices since our founding. We’re thrilled a current project, the Boyce-Frost residence at 601 Third Ave. in Oakhurst, will be featured on a new TV show on the Discovery Network, ‘Green Homes.’ It will highlight green building practices, principles and materials,” says Michelson.

Filming will begin this winter and the show is slated to air later in 2008. Narrating and hosting will be Steve Thomas, Emmy-award winning former host of “This Old House.”

Contrary to the dramatic before and after pictures, the project is not a tear down but a renovation, eliminating additional debris destined for a landfill. The original structure is



a 900-square-foot cottage, built in 1937. The remodeled home will be 2,200-square-feet, and was designed by local architect and Oakhurst resident Eric Rawlings, AIA.

One of the home's green features is dual-flush toilets, which offer a liquid or solid waste flushing option to reduce water usage by 50 percent. Other green features include recycled glass countertops, sealed attic and crawl space, low VOC (volatile organic compound) paints, geothermal heating and cooling, tankless water heater, and structural insulated panels (SIPs) instead of standard wood framing and fiberglass insulation. "These systems and techniques will address energy efficiency, indoor air quality, durability, resource efficiency, waste management, and water conservation, thus improving individual and global health," says Michelson.

Above-ground cisterns integrated into the design collect water, and gravity feeds a spigot for landscape maintenance or car washing. "In-ground cisterns can disturb mature tree root systems, and standard large cisterns can be an eyesore. With the ongoing



water crisis, we highly recommend that everybody use some type of rain water harvesting, as well as installing dual-flush toilets," adds Michelson.

Renewal and the design team chose each material carefully for recycled content as well as minimal travel distance from supplier to job site. They've also incorporated on-site recycling during the project.

Renewal's project was recommended for the "Green Homes" show by Atlanta-based Southface, a non-profit organization promoting environmentally sustainable workplaces, homes and communities through education, research and technical assistance. Additionally, Renewal Construction was named EarthCraft House "Home Renovator of the Year" in 2005. EarthCraft House will monitor the progress and certify the home as environmentally friendly.

"People may not know about affordable, green remodeling solutions. We hope this project will create public awareness, and let people know not only are these ideas good for the environment, but also they're good for homeowners' pockets. Who doesn't want to save an additional \$100 to \$200 each month?" says Michelson.



For more information, call 404.378.6962 or visit www.renewalconstruction.com.