



FROM TOP: MARGIE HAMRICK,
MIKE HAMRICK

Mountain Living
**NATURAL
DREAM
HOME**
'08

Luxury. Green. Living.

Our mission is to create the most environmentally responsible, high-performance residence possible that will serve as a living classroom for the building community. Our vision is to leave the world a better place, and to inspire the building community to take part in the solution by using environmentally sound building techniques and materials that have a positive impact on the earth.

Developer's Picks

Margie Hamrick, the Natural Dream Home's developer, shares her top three picks for sustainable countertops:

GRANITE "Granite is my top choice because it's been around for a long time and is well established in the marketplace, which means that more people carry it and know how to install it, and it's the most affordable," says Hamrick. "Granite also offers such a wide range of choices in terms of slab sizes, colors, patterns and finish options. And its character and movement are truly unique.

"When I'm trying to select the most sustainable product, I look for the simplest one—with the least embodied energy, that lasts the longest and needs the least maintenance," she adds. "And when it comes to those criteria, granite comes out on top. It's a natural stone that comes from the earth; no one had to use energy to make it. It's by far the most durable product and if sealed correctly, it requires the least maintenance, too."

ICESTONE® "Although it's a manmade product, this is a great sustainable alternative with a modern look that worked really well in parts of the Natural Dream Home," says Hamrick. Between 70 and 75 percent of an IceStone countertop is recycled glass (80 to 100 percent pre-consumer waste) that's suspended in a cement matrix. It's VOC-free, made in a renovated, day-lit factory in Brooklyn, NY, and is the first and only durable surface in the world to receive McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry's Cradle to Cradle™ certification for the use of safe, healthy, reusable and recyclable materials; efficient use of energy and water throughout production; and socially responsible strategies. icestone.biz

ECO-X™ by MELD "We're really excited to be using eco-X, a new eco-sensitive concrete material that's another excellent, 'green' man-made option for countertops," says Hamrick. "It offers a lot of color options and a beautiful minimalist look." Made with nearly 70 percent post-consumer bottle glass and post-industrial fiberglass purchased from suppliers located within 500 miles of Meld's manufacturing facility in Raleigh, NC, and sealed with a low-VOC penetrating sealer, it offers potential points toward LEED certification. meldusa.com

DEVELOPER

Margie Hamrick, Ecoexistence, Edwards, CO, (970) 926-9261, ecoexistence@aol.com

RESIDENTIAL DESIGNER

Peter MacDonald, Peter Stafford MacDonald & Co., Minneapolis, MN, Colorado: (970) 401-1853; Minneapolis: (612) 333-1822, macandco.net

BUILDER

Boles Custom Builders, Inc., Edwards, CO, (970) 926-3202, bcbi.net

SUSTAINABLE INTERIOR DESIGN TEAM

Associates III, Denver, CO, (303) 534-4444, associates3.com

ENERGY CONSULTANTS

Active Energies, Inc., Avon, CO, (970) 227-0272, activeenergies.com

NATURAL STONE SUPPLIER

Telluride Stone Co., Denver, CO, (303) 388-8863, telluridestone.com

LOG PROVIDER

Custom Log Homes, Inc., Stevensville, MT, (406) 777-5202, customlog.com

REAL ESTATE AGENT

Patti Brave, Slifer Smith & Frampton Real Estate, Cordillera, CO, (970) 926-3505, pattibrave.com

BENEFICIARY

Habitat for Humanity of Eagle & Lake Counties, CO, (970) 748-6718

T H E
DREAM
TEAM

Learning Curve

"Our goal for the Natural Dream Home is to use materials that will last a lifetime," says Hamrick. "Granite has stood the test of time, but when it comes to new manmade products, we just don't know what the outcome will be. But the only way to grow is by trying new things, so we're testing them in small areas of the home. We'll keep you posted, but in the meantime, feel free to share your 'green' product experiences with us by sending an e-mail to ecoexistence@aol.com."



PHOTO BY DAVID FOXHOVEN

MEET
THE
DREAM
TEAM

MIKE HAMRICK
Owner, Stone Concepts, Inc.



PHOTO BY JEFF SCROGGINS

Stone Concepts

WHO IS STONE CONCEPTS?

For more than 25 years, Stone Concepts has specialized in supplying, fabricating and installing natural stone and tile for residential and commercial projects. The company directly imports natural stone from around the world, which allows it to offer a broad selection at competitive prices. Because Stone Concepts is a full-service company, it can handle projects from start to finish. “We fabricate everything from kitchen countertops and vanity tops to flooring, walls, mosaics, fireplaces, columns, furniture and more—all custom made to each customer’s specifications,” says owner Mike Hamrick.

Phone: (970) 328-3800
Web: stoneconceptsusa.com

MOUNTAIN LIVING: Stone Concepts hasn’t always been a green company. What sustainable practices have you adopted?

MIKE HAMRICK: Our commitment to sustainability was inspired by our partnership with the Natural Dream Home and is also a response to the marketplace. Increasingly, customers are asking us, “Is this product green?” So, we have invested in a water-recycling system. A large amount of water (60 gallons a minute, in fact) is needed to fabricate natural stone, simply because of the amount of machinery in use. The water-recycling system removes the stone residue generated during the fabrication process, allowing us to reuse 100 percent of the water.

We also use close to 100 percent of each granite slab, which eliminates waste and trips to the landfill; any excess goes to our new remnant yard. Now, if customers are looking for a four-foot-wide slab of granite for a vanity, they can browse the remnants—we have exotic stones and about 500 colors to choose from—and find what they need for a reduced price. In the past, if someone wanted a four-foot-wide vanity, they’d have to buy a 50-square-foot slab. Now they have a huge selection and sustainable solution at a lower price. And, we used to send truckloads of scrap to the dump every month; now we haven’t been to the landfill in more than a year.

We also import stone from quarries located within a 500-mile radius whenever possible. This practice provides an environmentally friendly option and points toward LEED certification for our clients, too. If a regional source isn’t available, then we get as close as we can.

We’re also proud of the green jobs we provide—for up to 50 people at a time. Over the years, we have trained hundreds of employees, providing them with skills, knowledge and expertise that will help our industry thrive. And finally, we’ve made it our mission to continually seek out environmentally friendly, cutting-edge materials—from companies like Decorative Materials, Arizona Tile, IceStone and Meld—to offer our customers.

ML: What makes natural stone a “green” choice?

MH: The enduring life cycles of natural stones like granite, limestone, marble and travertine make them great “green” options. Stone can stand up to weathering and time (even centuries) better than any other building material. It requires less energy to initially fabricate and install than other products and is 100-percent recyclable. Many stone quarries throughout the world have become environmentally friendly, too. Quarry-reclamation projects—that turn completely excavated quarries into golf courses, lakes, recreation areas and state parks—allow these quarries to minimize their long-term impact on the environment.

For more information about natural stone, visit marble-institute.com.



Rumors have been flying about the safety of granite countertops. We’ll help you separate fact from fiction online at mountainliving.com.

CARLISLE WIDE PLANK FLOORS

WHAT IT IS: The home's main floor living areas will feature floors custom crafted by Carlisle of antique reclaimed ash. This recycled wood was resawn from the beams and support structure of a dismantled mid-1800s hay barn in Roxeter County, Ontario. "This particular wood has great character without being over the top: a tight grain structure, some worming, some nice check marks and a few nail holes," says Laura Leier, sales and design consultant for Carlisle Wide Plank Floors. "It's a little cleaner than some of our other antique woods, which gives it a more refined look that works well with the home's transitional mountain style. The stain—Sturbridge Brown—gives the wood a rich chocolate color."

WHAT MAKES IT GREEN: Carlisle's FSC-certified 100-percent post-consumer reclaimed antique wood comes from structures that have been slated for demolition—many of which are hundreds of years old. The labor-intensive process of reclaiming the wood and preparing it for its new life is done completely by hand, from carefully dismantling each structure board by board and cutting the wood into wide planks, to kiln drying, sizing, grading and finish-milling it. Carlisle works with a wide variety of wood species: three pines, 20 hardwoods and 10 different reclaimed woods. As a result, "we can accommodate a lot of different tastes, from rustic to contemporary," says Leier.

VITALS

Carlisle Wide Plank Floors
(866) 595-9663, wideplankflooring.com



PHOTO BY JEFF SCROGGINS



VITALS

Ruggs Benedict
(970) 949-5390, ruggsbenedict.com

RUGGS BENEDICT

WHAT IT IS: Ruggs Benedict, an Avon, Colorado-based flooring retailer, outfitted the home with two styles of Karastan carpeting. The master bedroom and closet floors are covered with Ardington, a dyed-wool carpet. "The color is called Natural and it's a beautifully striated, soft and linear looking carpet," says sales associate and designer Jennifer Tarus. The home's lower level features an undyed wool carpet called Donnington. "The color—Banfield—is a nice neutral hue with a lovely heathered look. The natural variation makes it forgiving when it comes to tracking and wear and tear."

WHAT MAKES IT GREEN: "Wool is the sustainable carpet fiber of choice," says Tarus. "It's a renewable material, and it's more durable than synthetic fibers. It retains its texture forever. It requires green cleaning methods, like steam cleaning, so chemicals are out." The carpets feature a woven backing "which is a really strong construction," says Tarus. "It will last twice as long as normal carpet." And it looks and feels fabulous. "Top manufacturers have always made their finest, most desirable styles with wool," she says.

During the installation process, we'll avoid using adhesives. "We're stretching the carpet in, so we won't have to glue," says Tarus. "And, the low-VOC carpet pads are Green Label Plus certified, which can help the home earn points toward LEED certification."

SELECT STONE

WHAT IT IS: The home's lower level floors will feature Frontier flagstone, a sandstone quarried by Montana-based Select Stone. "These are naturally random-shaped flagstones that range in color from light gray to a buff tan," says project manager Peter Zemlock. "Some sandstones are really porous and flaky, but this one rates very highly; it's fairly nonporous and dense as far as sandstone is concerned, so it will be very durable."

WHAT MAKES IT GREEN: "Extractive industries have a history of devastation," says Zemlock. "You can see the evidence all over the West. Our goal is to preserve the land as much as possible, and we're very proud of our reclamation practices. After we're done quarrying, we take the overburden from the quarry and save it. We refill where we dug and try to return the topography to the original rolling landscape. Then we reseed with native grasses. If you go back after two or three years, you can't tell that we were ever there."

Select Stone works hard to maintain a symbiotic relationship with landowners, too. "They are compensated for the use of their property," says Zemlock. "Agriculture is such a roll of the dice from year to year, but we provide them with a dependable income stream."



PHOTO BY JEFF SCROGGINS

> VITALS

Select Stone
(888) 237-1000, selectstone.com



PHOTO BY JEFF SCROGGINS

> VITALS

Arizona Tile
(303) 574-2990, arizonatile.com

ARIZONA TILE

WHAT IT IS: Arizona Tile provided the marble and granite slabs found in the home. The kitchen and bar area feature a polished Seafoam Green granite slab from Brazil. "This slab and the others installed throughout the home are 1.25 inches thick, compared to most slabs, which are ¾-inch thick," says Adria Harrison, director of marketing for Arizona Tile. In the master bathroom, closet and makeup area, Emperador Light marble slabs from Spain were selected. The buff-colored stone is highlighted by white crystals and veins and some gray and peachy tones. "It's a classic marble look with beautiful veining," says Harrison. The lower-level kitchen and bar area feature Vitoria Regia granite, a medium- to deep-green stone from Brazil with some veining and a spectacular, circular lily pad design. "This slab has a satin finish which is less common, and is a gorgeous choice for this material," says Harrison. "When you touch it, you can feel the veining."

WHAT MAKES IT GREEN: Arizona Tile has requested that all of its major material suppliers implement an Environmental Management System—a credo to conduct more eco-friendly practices. The long list of implemented measures ranges from 100-percent water recycling, dust-collection systems, and waste material recycling, to clean natural-gas energy sources, use of water-based glazes, elimination of solvents, and quarry-reclamation projects. And, the natural stones themselves are durable, long lasting and easy to care for with simple, natural products.

DECORATIVE MATERIALS

WHAT IT IS: “The design team at Associates III made a very concerted effort to showcase different mediums of tile, so for the Natural Dream Home, we are representing ‘green’ ceramic, glass, concrete and porcelain tiles, each of which have beautiful and unique features,” says Decorative Materials’ Denver showroom manager Allison Betty.

WHAT MAKES IT GREEN:

ENCORE CERAMICS (encoreceramics.com) “Encore Ceramics is really an industry leader when it comes to sustainability,” says Betty. “They’ve taken environmental responsibility to the next level by getting involved with the community, eliminating raw waste, offsetting their greenhouse gas emissions with renewable energy certificates, and investing a lot of money in their factory, which runs on solar and wind power. The home will feature tiles from the San Marco collection that have a glaze that looks like crushed glass. Another collection—Rhapsody—is hand-glazed, so you’ll never see a repeat. The tiles have a level of sophistication; they’re a more refined looking ceramic.”

IRON GATE (meredithtile.com/irongate) “The laundry room and a bathroom will feature tile by Iron Gate, a branch of Meredith Tile, that is reminiscent of Victorian-era industrial ceramic,” says Betty. Made in Canton, Ohio, the tile contains 5 percent pre-consumer recycled material, and during manufacturing several waste streams, from unfired clay and fired scrap to glaze waste and glazed waste water, are recycled.

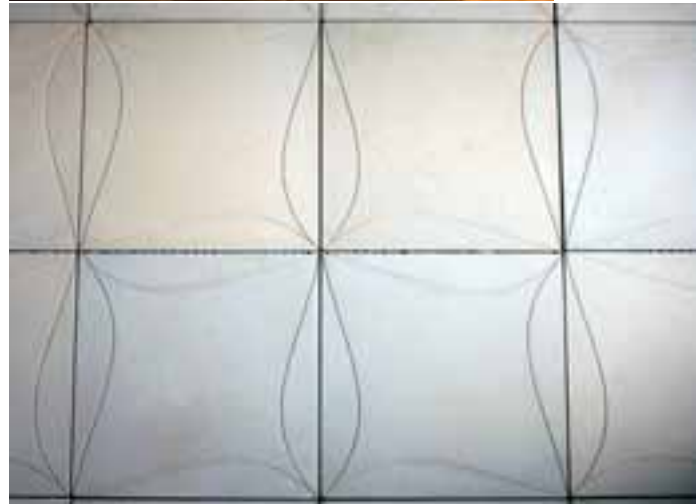
SANDHILL (sandhillind.com) The spa bath will feature 100 percent recycled glass tiles by Sandhill, a small Idaho-based company that has received the EPA Evergreen award for environmental excellence and leadership. “The tiles have a soft, pillowy look,” says Betty. “In muted hues of soft green, brown and icy blue, they look almost like beach glass.” And, because they’re made from recycled materials, each tile takes less than half of the energy needed to produce a ceramic tile, and less than one-fourth of the energy needed to produce a cast-glass tile.

SMITH-LAREDO (smith-laredo.com) Several of the home’s bathrooms will feature concrete tile made by hand in San Diego by Smith-Laredo. “Concrete really is green because it’s air-cured, made from renewable resources, durable and recyclable—and there’s no off-gassing,” says Betty. The tile—from the “Minimalist” collection—“looks so soft, you want to reach out and touch it,” says Betty. “It’s the most modern looking concrete product, but it’s not contemporary.”

SYZGY TILEWORKS (szygytile.com) The kitchen will feature a five-color patchwork of Arts and Crafts-style ceramic tiles by Syzygy Tileworks, a New Mexico-based company with a commitment to green that focuses on eliminating waste. Tiles are shipped in reused and recycled cardboard packaging; bio-degradable (water-soluble) packing material provides cushioning. “This is the only red clay-body tile being used in the house, and it has a truly organic look; there’s no doubt it was made by hand,” says Betty. “And it has a depth of color that’s not typically seen in today’s ceramic manufacturing.” ●



PHOTOS BY JEFF SCROGGINS



VITALS

Decorative Materials
(303) 722-1333, decorativematerials.com












FAMILY CRAFTED CUSTOM FLOORS FOR OVER 40 YEARS.



Straight. True. Trusted.

800-595-9663
WIDEPLANKFLOORING.COM



PLUMBING FIXTURES – PRESENTING SPONSOR	
	MARTZ SUPPLY COMPANY 5330 Pecos Street, Denver, CO 80221 800.456.4672 martzsupply.com
REAL ESTATE INFORMATION ON DREAM HOME – PRESENTING SPONSOR	
	SLIFER, SMITH, & FRAMPTON Patti Brave 970.926.3505 pattibrave.com, pbrave@slifer.net 2203 Cordillera Way, Cordillera, CO 81632
RECLAIMED WOOD SUPPLIER	
	CENTENNIAL WOODS 1482 Commerce Dr, Ste A, Laramie, WY 82070 866.778.8762 centennialwoods.com
ROOFING MATERIALS – PRESENTING SPONSOR	
	B.R. MCCrackEN / ECO STAR P.O. Box 7000, Carlisle, PA 17013 303.332.3665 premiumroofs.com
ROOFING MATERIALS	
	RECLA METALS 136 South Maple Avenue Montrose, CO 81401 970.249.7922 reclametals.com
S&H Roofing	S&H ROOFING, SIDING & TRIM, INC PO Box 5653, Eagle, CO 81631 970.524.6652
SUSTAINABLE INTERIOR DESIGN – PRESENTING SPONSOR	
	ASSOCIATES III 1516 Blake St, Denver, CO 80202 303.534.4444 associates3.com
THEATRE – PRESENTING SPONSOR	
	CONUNDRUM TECHNOLOGIES 2737 Larimer St., Ste. A, Denver, CO 80205 800.741.8639 conundrumtechnologies.com
TILE & GRANITE	
	STONE CONCEPTS, INC. PO Box 4330, Eagle, CO 81631 970.328.3800 stoneconceptsusa.com mike@stoneconcepts.org
WALL FINISHES	
	AMERICAN CLAY 8724 Alameda Park Dr. NE, Ste. F, Albuquerque, NM 87113 866.404.1634 americanclay.com
WINE SUPPLIER	
	HILL FAMILY ESTATE 6512 Washington St., Yountville, CA 94599 707.944.9580 hillfamilyestate.com
WOOD FLOORING	
	CARLISLE WIDE PLANK FLOORING 1676 Rte 9, Stoddard, NH 03464 866.595.9663 wideplankflooring.com

The 2008 *Mountain Living* Dream Home sections are made possible through the generosity of these companies. We would like to extend a very special thank you to our Presenting Sponsors, who continue to exceed our expectations in skill and knowledge.