



AURORA CUSTOM HOMES COMPLETES SUSTAINABLE, ENERGY EFFICIENT CUSTOM HOME IN PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FLORIDA

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (Oct. 28, 2010) – Aurora Custom Homes, together with homeowners Robert and Sallie Ann Hart, recently completed a 13,500-square-foot custom home named “Serendipity” in prestigious Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. The home has been designed to utilize the latest energy efficient technologies and green building features all while incorporating historical architectural design elements.

“Serendipity is a labor of love and embodies our passion for energy efficiency and clean living as well as our love for history, architecture and travel,” said homeowner Robert Hart, founder and former CEO of Globeleq, an operating power company solely focused on providing clean, reliable and affordable electricity to the emerging markets of Africa, the Americas and Asia. “The home has been designed with axiality, symmetry and spatial relevance. It is also designed so form follows function in order to accommodate extended visits by our guests, including family and friends who range from small children to retirees.”

Serendipity’s spectacular design includes eight bedrooms, 10 bathrooms, a guesthouse, casita, four kitchen areas including a spacious outdoor kitchen, five defined gardens, three study libraries, two garages and numerous water features, including a vanishing edge pool, a historically significant rill, and two garden fountains one of which is from Provence, France.

Built to the standards and suggestions set forth by the U.S. Green Building Council and Green Built Homes of Florida, Serendipity includes a number of sustainable, energy-efficient features to reduce energy consumption and lower utility costs at the home. Aurora Custom Homes and its green consultants installed roof-integrated photovoltaic cells to transform sunlight into clean and renewable electricity saving the Harts thousands in energy bills over the lifespan of the home. Insulated Concrete Form (ICF) blocks were used on the exterior walls of the home to provide superior strength and insulation while reducing the demand for forested wood products. ICFs are energy efficient, environmentally friendly and resistant to high wind speeds.

“Every product and design element at Serendipity was evaluated to ensure we were using the most cost effective, energy efficient methods possible,” said Michael Lenahen, president of Aurora Custom Homes and Certified Green Professional by the Northeast Florida Builders Association (NEFBA) and the National Home Builders Association (NAHB). “The result is a home that has improved indoor air quality, devices to conserve water and electricity, and low maintenance materials to improve the quality of life for the Harts and their guests.”

Serendipity also includes a variety of additional green features including: a power distribution system capable of charging electric powered cars; geo-thermal water-to-air heat pumps; dual-speed air handlers, energy recovery ventilators (ERV); heat recovery units; a closed-loop plumbing system; dual-flush toilets; Low-E windows; Energy Star appliances; and a home automation system to program and control air conditioning, stereo, security, lighting and the home's equipment. The landscaping and irrigation are also designed to be environmentally friendly and include native Florida plantings, shade trees, an underground cistern to collect rain water to supply the drip irrigation system, bioswales and permeable surfaces to reduce the amount of water run-off into the storm drains and waterways.

“I have been in the energy business for more than 30 years and my philosophy has always been to put ‘making a difference’ ahead of ‘making a profit,’” Hart said. “Now that I am retired, a cutting-edge sustainable home seems a good way to continue that philosophy.”

Serendipity is located on three-quarters of an acre in prestigious Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., and backs up to the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club's Ocean Course golf resort. Ponte Vedra Beach is home to luxurious resorts, fine golf and headquarters for several national sporting organizations, including the PGA Tour, the ATP Tour and The Players Championship. Ponte Vedra Beach is located in St. Johns County, Fla., minutes away from Jacksonville and historic St. Augustine.