



AURORA CUSTOM HOMES GIVES GREEN HOME TOUR TO CREEKSIDE HIGH SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (April 7, 2010) – Aurora Custom Homes recently gave students from Creekside High School’s Academy of Environmental and Urban Planning an education in green building technology. Michael Lenahen, president of Aurora Custom Homes, guided the local high school students and teachers through the custom green home his team is building in Ponte Vedra Beach to showcase the home’s sustainable green design and custom features. The home is currently under construction and will be considered for LEED®, Green Built Homes of Florida and Energy Star certifications.

According to Creekside High School career specialist Angela Hensley, the Academy of Environmental and Urban Planning group is a small, focused group at Creekside High School that is combining academic and career-related activities into its curriculum.

“The students are currently working on a green building project called Project GREEN, where they can choose various aspects of sustainable building to display in a county-wide competition,” Hensley said. “This educational tour was a brilliant way for the students to learn first-hand about green building and give them ideas for this project. I believe the experience opened the eyes of many students and they are all very excited to begin their designs for the competition. This was one of the best trips we have had since the school opened.”

During the tour, Lenahen and his Aurora Green Team, which consists of trade partners, consultants and homeowner Robert Hart, educated the students about various green features and products in the home, including heating and cooling technologies, rain water harvesting, solar energy and sustainable building materials. A large part of the green building educational process is gaining an understanding of how various products in the home can help reduce energy consumption. To help the students better understand this process, Lenahen demonstrated the benefits of energy efficient materials, such as Insulated Concrete Forms (ICF) for the exterior walls of the home, photovoltaic solar cells integrated into the roof tile design to generate electricity, and spray foam insulation to significantly reduce heat build-up in the attic.

“We have started offering tours of this home because there is such a need for our community to understand the importance and opportunities of building green homes that

reduce our impact on the environment, improve our indoor air and water quality and reduce our overall energy consumption,” Lenahen said. “It is even more critical that we educate our youth about green, sustainable building practices because they will be the next generation of architects, home builders and homeowners.”

Lenahen also educated the students about additional green building products that will be implemented in the home over the course of construction including: recycled and reclaimed materials, roof-mounted sun tunnels, native and drought tolerant plants, geo-thermal water-to-air heat pumps, dual-speed air handlers, energy recovery ventilators (ERV), a closed-loop plumbing system, dual-flush toilets, Low-E windows, Energy Star appliances, motion sensors and timers to operate exhaust fans, a home automation control system, and an underground rain water irrigation system.

Aurora Custom Homes is currently building the Ponte Vedra Beach residence and expects it to be completed this summer. The concept for the green-built home began two years ago when owner Robert Hart contacted Aurora Custom Homes to build a sustainable, environmentally friendly home that would be energy efficient while limiting the use of natural resources. Hart is the 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. Hart and his wife currently reside in Houston, Texas, but will relocate to Ponte Vedra Beach when the home is complete.