



## THE FUTURE'S LOOKING GREEN

*Our sincerest apologies to Kermit the Frog; as it turns out, it is in fact easy (and luxurious) to be green.*

New websites and organizations are rapidly forming and invading the building industry, including the luxury home market, and leaving little room for excuses not to build green. In November 2007, the U.S. Green Building Council launched [www.greenhomeguide.org](http://www.greenhomeguide.org) to serve both homebuyers and homeowners. The user-friendly site offers its visitors indisputable incentives and further resources for going green.

Rick Fedrizzi, president and CEO of the council says, "As Americans learn more about the importance of their actions on the health of their families and future generation, living a greener life becomes more vital. Where better to start than in the home?"

Southwest Florida home builders are beginning to understand the value in building green as the demand for healthier, more efficient, high-end homes intensifies. Model homes, such as The Hamilton at Twin Eagles built by London Bay Homes, are boasting green features to future homeowners. With solar hot panels to heat the home's water supply and recycled cypress box beams, recycled pine wood tables and natural finish bamboo insets in the ceiling details, the home is a model example of luxury gone green.

Other builders, such as Idyll Construction, are leaping into the green scene with competition in mind. In 2007, the company began accepting design proposals for an 8,000-square-foot home on an exclusive lot in Port Royal. Appropriately titled The Emerald House, the idea is to incorporate the most innovative green technologies with an elite luxury lifestyle. Erickson Associates was selected for the job and plans are underway. For more information, visit [www.idyllconstruction.com](http://www.idyllconstruction.com).

With abundant resources for homeowners, builders and designers, green living trends are easy to fashion. But what about restaurants, hotels, hospitals, grocery stores and the neighborhood dry cleaner? Wouldn't it be nice if there was a community center for everyone to learn how they could run a more sustainable, more energy-efficient, more eco-friendly and healthier business? Perhaps the best place to go for answers is back to school, and Florida Gulf Coast University has the solution with plans for the WCI Green Building.

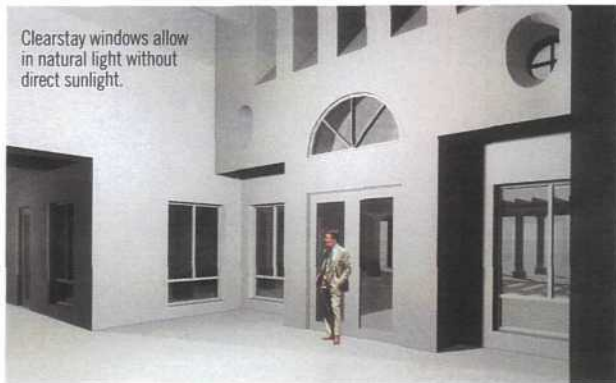
"This is a program that will not only benefit students and those in the building industry, but the entire community. We want everyone to know what options are available for a more sustainable future—we don't discriminate against anyone wishing to learn more," says Jennifer Languell, program director for the FGCU Green Building. At the time of publication, construction had not yet begun, as the building industry faced challenging times, but Languell is optimistic the program will receive enough community support to carry out their mission. Plans for the Green Building involve interactive demonstrations, research programs, exhibits and training. And of course, the building itself will be an impressive example of the latest green trends. For more information, visit [www.fgcu.edu/greenbuilding](http://www.fgcu.edu/greenbuilding). ■

## WCI GREEN BUILDING AT FGCU

Large overhangs provide shading to reduce solar heat gain from the sun into the building.



Clearstay windows allow in natural light without direct sunlight.



The building will feature metal roofing, which is durable and allows for easy rainwater collection; a cistern will collect rainwater to reuse as appropriate.



Hamilton Model exterior

