



ALICIA BAAS PHOTO

**GREEN HOUSE:** Wes Brown [right] of WB Contracting and Martijn Poelen of Alofii A Design are working together to design a custom built home with green options, starting in early spring.

# Built Green

*Goal is to reduce*

LEE MACKENZIE  
PEAK CONTRIBUTOR

It used to be that building a house was building a house. With increased environmental awareness many people are asking for green alternatives and enhancements to time-honoured building practices.

Now there are some choices that weren't there even a few years ago. For example, the Built Green Society of Canada is a voluntary program initiated and driven by the building industry. It promotes green practices with the goal of reducing the impact building has on the environment. Built Green is currently available in BC and Alberta. In order to use the term Built Green a builder or contractor must have completed the Built Green builder-training course.

Wes Brown of WB Contracting in Powell River has just finished his course. "In order to build Built Green homes I attended a two-day mandatory course and passed an intensive three-hour exam," he said. "It was

definitely challenging and put my studying skills to the test. But it was extremely interesting and got me thinking about our ability to build green homes." The program follows up with seminars to be sure Built Green members are up to date on current building practices and technology.

Putting a home together using the Built Green program requires the new homeowner to choose a minimum number of items and concepts to be sure the entire house is being considered and not just specific areas. Items include energy efficiency in the home and its operational systems, building materials, finishes both inside and outside the home, air quality inside the finished home, waste management, water conservation and the business practices of the builder or contractor.

The range of choices available to the homeowner makes it possible to choose what will meet financial, health and environmental concerns. Green Built contractors claim there is a financial tradeoff. "I really

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