

MAKING THE COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

A green home built by Foursquare Builders is designed to adapt to the needs and changing lifestyles of the owner and built to span generations.

Photography by JACOB TERMANSEN

Considering building a sustainable custom home is a little like considering marriage according to Wesley Wigginton, LEED AP and Managing Director of Foursquare Builders, LLC. “When Foursquare begins a custom building project, our clients must first answer a question that will ultimately define the design: ‘Are you willing to commit to a long-term relationship with your home?’”

The first question about a homeowner’s commitment to their custom home is crucial to the design of the home itself. “We need to know the client’s long-term view of their home — where do they see themselves in this home 5, 10, 15 or even 30 years from now?” says Wigginton. “Once we establish our clients’ views and where they are in their personal timeline, we can build a plan for the ultimate sustainability of their home as well as create a home that is a custom fit for their lives.”

Potential homeowners are approaching Foursquare Builders with more knowledge than ever about energy efficient homes. “Our clients are sophisticated enough to know they can offset and recoup their expenses quickly by using efficient systems and appliances,” says Wigginton. “But what they may not understand is how all of these systems work together and how they affect their budget. We encourage all of our clients to engage us during the design phase to vet out system choices with their budgets. There are green building decisions that are made in the design phase that are the most important decisions of any made on a building project, such as the positioning of the home on the site to make the best use of light, breezes and views.”

In terms of quality of life, Foursquare advocates embracing a reductive approach to home design, where “Less is more.” As validation to this approach, Wigginton says that families are scaling back and choosing to simplify their lives, and this ties in well with Foursquare’s views on energy efficacy and creating comfortable living spaces tailor-made for a client’s lifestyle. “By using our experience and techniques, our clients can build a smart, sustainable home that will be a good, cost effective fit for them today and in the years to come,” says Wigginton. “We take the approach of adopting integrated heating and cooling systems so that small monthly savings of hundreds of dollars ultimately save thousands over a lifetime.”

Foursquare Builders’ commitment to creating sustainable and innovative green building solutions has not gone unnoticed. The company has been awarded six MAX Awards in 2010 by the Home Builders Association of Greater Austin, including “Best Green Home by a Custom Builder,” and “Best Custom Home Design.” ❖

Foursquare Builders is a Texas-based construction company with more than two decades experience as a general contractor, construction manager and design builder. Foursquare Builders’ specialties include design/build construction of new homes, interior and exterior renovation, remodeling and building additions. Visit their website at www.foursquarebuilders.com, or call their office at 512-944-4520 for more information.

