



– D E D I C A T E D –  
TO QUALITY CUSTOM HOMES AND  
SUSTAINABLE BUILDING.

**A**ward winning custom green builder, SolAire Homebuilders and designer Mary Louise Vidas proudly place the finishing touches on a home in Bend, Oregon that brings sustainability into sharp focus. Using a new program called LEED for Homes as a guide, SolAire and Vidas have combined their strengths in custom building and architectural design to showcase this sustainable home.

LEED for Homes is a national certification standard which provides consistency in defining the features of high-performance green homes. A green home uses less energy, water and natural resources; creates less waste; and is healthier and more comfortable for the homeowner.

“The primary goal for Mary Louise Vidas and her husband Allan Staley, was to build a LEED home that met their personal tastes, budget and green building aspirations. Then we realized that with our green building expertise and our client’s sustainable design knowledge “Platinum”

certification was easily within reach,” explains Cindi O’Neil, Vice President SolAire. “This July we proudly open the home to the public on the COBA Tour of Homes™.”

The home, designed by Vidas, is Prairie style with a beautiful open living plan. “I used the Prairie style to demonstrate that sustainable building can take the familiar form of the traditional home. Choosing SolAire as my builder was a natural decision since their goals align with mine: to build extraordinary energy and resource efficiency into conventional home styles,” explains Vidas.

Prairie style lends itself to passive solar design and abundant indoor light. A carefully designed, south-facing solarium will glow with warmth and sun this winter. Throughout the home, connections to the outdoors are linked to views like the reserved Ponderosa pine tree, glimpses of the sky, and filtered mountain vistas.



This environmentally friendly home contains all the luxuries and amenities of the Central Oregon custom home: beautiful solid surface countertops, custom tiled showers and bathrooms, hardwood floors, and knotty alder custom cabinetry. Study the materials closer though and you will see that these materials were chosen with an eye towards preserving our earth's resources. The Paperstone™ countertops contain 50% post consumer paper waste. The Sonoma deco tiles were chosen for their vibrant color and for the fact that they are locally manufactured.

Cabinetry in the kitchen and throughout the home is made from alder, a fast growing, early successional tree. The adhesives and lacquers used in the manufacture of the cabinets are non toxic and do not off-gas harmful chemicals. "These are the details that we strive to provide our clients on every custom home," explains O'Neil. "A healthy home is important to everyone."

The Vidas home has both solar hot water and 2kW photovoltaic solar systems. Together these two renewable energy sources from the sun will provide about 5225 kW hours per year of "free" energy to the home. SolAire expects that combined with the passive solar orientation of the home, the super insulated shell, and these renewable energy installations, the energy use may be less than half the American average.

Traditional in style, lasting, durable, energy efficient, healthy to live in and easy on the environment: this is a sustainable home. Asked if she would build another home with SolAire, Vidas did not hesitate, "The best part of this project for me was the teamwork between SolAire and all the subcontractors. Believe it or not, says Mary Louise, I'm ready to design and build another. This was a very rewarding experience."

