



The Diamond Update

A Schneider Development Newsletter

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Schneider Development is a Member of

- ◆ NAHB
- ◆ Tidewater Builder's Association
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- ◆ Northampton County Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Earth-Craft Member Builder

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Kate Brown	<i>Design Coordinator</i>
Chris Schwab	<i>Business Development</i>
Andy Buchholz	<i>Site Supervisor Warranty</i>
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Not Just Sticks and Stones

Building a custom home involves several levels of decisions to meet the lifestyle of each client. Coordinating choices such as cabinetry, color palates and lighting fixtures are important to the over all look/function of the home. One of the earliest and most fundamental decisions may not affect the aesthetics; however, it does greatly impact the entire home – how will the home be constructed.

Typically clients choose to build a conventional wood frame - at Schneider Development we offer an alternative – a concrete constructed home. Jim Schneider has developed an association with *Dominion Building Group*, a local multidiscipline concrete subcontractor, to offer a super insulated concrete home to interested clients. Reid Pocock, president of the company is a structural engineer by trade and began building concrete homes in 1993. His company uses the Polysteel Brand of Insulated Concrete Forms (ICF); it has proven to be the best form in the industry in many categories. Polysteel is the first ICF to receive the "Cradle to Cradle" silver certificate of approval. This certification is a rigorous third-party evaluation process that measures a product for its "human and environmental impact throughout its lifecycle ensuring that it is safe, healthy, and ecologically sound."

Building a concrete home is becoming a popular choice, especially in the southeastern region of Virginia, as the idea of "green building" continues to "weave itself into the consciousness and vocabulary of consumers." The initial investment for the owner translates into benefits in long run- durability, energy efficiency, fire insect and moisture resistant, noise reduction, as well as environmentally responsible. The long term cost savings with a concrete home, far outweigh the additional upfront costs. Dominion Building Group makes use of panelized walls, manufactured at their warehouse, to better coordinate with the on-site construction time.

For additional information go to <http://www.dominionbuildinggroup.com>. Stay tuned to future newsletters highlighting each of the four benefits of choosing an ICF home.

Schneider Snapshot

Our Schneider Snapshot features a renovation that coins the phrase "a picture is worth a thousand words." Chris and Lori Hendrix, owners of an antiquated 1958 home, were looking to capture its living potential. "We were able to keep our current location (which we love) and maintain some of the equity that we previously had accumulated in the 'old' home."

Chris, architect with the firm Covington Hendrix Anderson, designed a home that reflected the craftsman/coastal style that he and Lori envisioned. Their innovative ideas, detailed in architectural drawings, took shape in 2008 - and the transformation of their home became a reality. The Hendrix's decision in choosing Jim Schneider for the project stemmed from their respect for the quality and high level of craftsmanship he could provide. Chris shares, "I've worked with Jim on several projects over the past couple of years and have come to appreciate his commitment to quality and customer service."

The renovation added a family room, master suite, fitness room, and office; the considerable amount of square footage they gained produced a comfortable living space for their family of five. "The added living space gives us the ability to spread out a bit more and we now have a guest room/playroom and a living/dining room that we didn't previously enjoy." By far the most prominent design feature of the house is the front porch entry and foyer – it shapes the first impression of all who enter. This was an important feature for Chris and Lori – "the old house had a really poor entry and it was something we always looked forward to enhancing. The porches provide a nice welcoming approach to the house and the entry is definitely inviting."



Chris and Lori agree that it was exciting to see the project come to an end. They were anxious to take advantage of their new surroundings with their kids as well as invite family and friends to share in this excitement. "It's so cool to (finally) have a nice home on the great lot we previously enjoyed."

Welcome to the Schneider Development Family!

TED - The Energy Detective

Green:

Meet TED- The Energy Detective

All the "green" talk in the news often seems very theoretical. What can you do on a practical level that will be good for the environment and good for your bank account? Install compact fluorescent light bulbs... sure, but what else?

The best way to begin conserving energy is to become more aware of what you use. Are you surprised when you get your bill from the power company each month? Wouldn't it be easier if you could see what you are spending as you spend it instead of after the fact? It's a simple concept- If you can measure it, you can manage it.

Meet TED "The Energy Detective". This device is one of an emerging set of tools for homeowners to better understand their energy spending habits. TED is installed inside the electric panel to measure the electricity your house is using at any moment. A handy monitor inside the house reports energy consumption in kilowatts, dollars, daily totals, cost-to-date in your billing cycle, projected usage in your billing cycle, peak usage, min and max volts, and historical data for a period of 13 months. Open the refrigerator door and you'll see the 20watt bulb inside register on TED's screen.

Using TED will help you teach the members of your household about conserving energy. TED can also help identify "energy hog" appliances. Changing your habits based on this real-time information can save you 10-20% of your electric bill.

If you'd like to learn more, read all about TED at www.theenergydetective.com. As part of the new Extended Maintenance program, Schneider Development will provide and install the TED Model 1001 for \$300. We're interested in working with a few homeowners as part of a trial to validate the energy savings. Call the office if you're interested!

Andy's Handy Hints

Take some time for these few maintenance tips. Your home will benefit in the long run.

- ◆ Change the furnace filter every 30 days.
- ◆ Always have a multi-purpose fire extinguisher accessible.
- ◆ Remove any debris from heating/AC units
- ◆ Check dryer vents for lint build up.

Pesto Sauce

4 cloves garlic peeled	3-4 cups fresh basil
1/2 cup pine nuts	1/4 lb. grated parmesan cheese
1/4 lb. grated romano cheese	2 cups olive oil
1 tsp. salt	1/2 tsp. fresh ground pepper

Add all ingredients and 1/2 cup olive oil to food processor. Blend. Add remainder of olive oil. Keep refrigerated.

From the Kitchen of Sue Schneider



Schneider
DEVELOPMENT

Quality. From the ground up.

Design:

Thinking in 3D

One of the most difficult things for many homeowners is visualizing what their project will look like once it's built. Google offers a tool (free!) that may help with this. Download a copy of Google SketchUp from www.sketchup.com and watch the simple tutorial. You'll be creating 3D models of your space in minutes.

Tax News

First-time home buyers may qualify for up to an \$8,000 tax credit. This does not have to be paid back as long as you own the home for three years. For additional information go to www.federalhousingtaxcredit.com.

Tax credits for energy-efficient home improvements in the new economic stimulus package are available for home owners who go "green" on their renovation projects in 2009 and 2010. For additional information go to www.nahb.org.

Schneider Development continues to offer expanded services for our clients and friends.

Extended Maintenance

As a complement to our standard home warranty service, we offer extended maintenance plans. Typical maintenance tasks will be completed by our staff, with the expertise and knowledge that built your home.

Concierge Service

Special program for those of you out of town for extended periods. We offer typical vacation home support at an hourly rate to cover your requests for local service.

Call the office for details and pricing.

Topics on the Web

http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/safety_guide/sg_fire_w001.aspx

<http://www.hgtv.com/decorating/index.html>

<http://allrecipes.com/Recipes/Everyday-Cooking/Seasonal/Winter/Main.aspx>

Available New Homes



"The St. Maarten I"
\$568,900



"The Mustique"
\$594,900



"The Bluff Cottage"
\$399,900

Available to Rent



King's Bay- Lot 172
\$687,900 finished

Available Lots

Lot 88, Charlestown Dr.
\$249,000

Lot 87, Charlestown Dr.
\$249,000

Lot 80, Charlestown Dr.
\$249,000

Custom Building packages available directly through Schneider Development. Price is for lot only.