City of Oakland

Green Building Case Study

328 63RD STREET

Project Summary
In 2008, David Gottfried - founder of the U.S. Green Building Council and the World Green Building Council - and his wife, Sara, renovated a 1,700 sq ft artisan home located in Oakland’s Rockridge district. The home, built in 1915, had not been refurbished in sixty years, and required a full renovation of its systems, appliances and rooms. The Gottfrieds aspired to convert the new residence into a more space efficient home by moving/removing walls, installing solar PV panels, a solar powered water-heating system, a rainwater capture and greywater system, sustainable flooring and doors, fixtures made of recycled content, energy efficient windows and lighting, and a backyard vegetable garden. The home is located close to hundreds of shops, parks, schools and public transit, minimizing the need for a personal automobile. This home was the first LEED Platinum home in Northern California, and formerly the highest rated in the country.

Green Building Features
Site Design & Community
- Close to hundreds of shops, parks, schools, and public transportation, including BART
- The LifePod home office, which allows the Gottfrieds to telecommute, is located in the rear yard, and features 8 solar PV panels and passive solar design
- The renovation reused a 93-year-old existing home and site

Resource Conservation
- FSC-certified wood used for construction framing, plywood, and replacement floors
- The kitchen and bathrooms feature high recycled content tile
- The site features Basalite permeable pavement and decomposed granite
- Reclaimed wood was used in the entry stairs, framing, and deck
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Indoor Air Quality
- Energy modeling and infiltration performance testing & tightening (blower door)
- Green paint by Mythic features no VOCs, and exceeds GS-11 Green Seal standard.

Water Conservation
- Greywater and rainwater is captured for use in the garden (and one toilet).
- The garden is planted with native, drought tolerant plants, and features greywater drip irrigation
- Dual-flush toilets by Caroma (1.28 and 0.8 gallons per flush) were installed in the bathrooms.
- Efficient showerheads and faucet aerators by Bricor and Kohler were installed.

Energy Efficiency
- A real time digital dashboard monitors and displays energy consumption in the home
- 66% reduction in heating compared to standard refurbishment (10,016 kWh/yr savings)
- Solar water heating and photovoltaic panels (16 panels peak output 2.72kW) provide 70% of domestic hot water needs and 10% space heating needs.
- Highly-rated wall (cellulose), attic (sprayed polyurethane foam) and crawl space insulation significantly reduces heat loss

"The Home on 63rd Street is a physical manifestation of Gottfried’s ‘conviction’ and ‘determination’ to showcase what is possible in sustainable building renovation."

Paul Hawken
Renowned Author

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