

A house chock full of ideas



ABOVE: Outdoor sitting area with a wood-burning stove at the Idea Show House in Shelby Township.
LEFT: Vito Terracciano, and Brian Szliter, both vice presidents of Arteva Homes, based in Bloomfield Hills.

Photos by JESSICA J. TREVINO/Detroit Free Press

Shelby Township showplace features something new around every corner

By GRETA GUEST
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The Idea Show House 2011 in Shelby Township has something new around every corner from a courtyard with a pizza oven to recycled alligator-patterned leather used on the family room floor.

It represents the work of dozens of leaders in design, green technology and building techniques including Dominick Tringali Architects and builder Arteva Homes, both based in Bloomfield Hills.

Construction on the 4,000-square-foot home took four months, and it opened this month. It has four bedrooms, three full bathrooms and two half-bathrooms. It will be open to the public for at least a year.

And yes, it will be for sale for roughly \$750,000 after the tours are over, said Vito Terracciano, vice president of Arteva Homes, the company that built the home and the first Idea Show House that opened last year in Macomb Township.

Terracciano said that though the home has a number of green features, its design was focused more on outdoor living and entertaining this year.

"Last year, we did more of a green home. We found people weren't very excited about it if it wasn't going to save them money," he said.

Tringali said the design of this year's home was inspired by a home he designed in Charlotte, N.C., that features a prominent outdoor courtyard that is in the core of the home. In this case, it is surrounded by the family room, dining room and study and features an outdoor pizza oven/fireplace.

"It is a courtyard and a functional outdoor space as well," Tringali said. "It is a very livable house. We got rid of all the wasted space. There is no formal living room any more. This is a plan you haven't seen in Michigan."

A second courtyard is a covered loggia with skylights and arched entries, an outdoor grill and separate fireplace.

The outdoor living and entertainment features are the ones that most appealed to Christine and David Jaissle, a retired Sterling Heights couple who viewed the home last week.

The Jaissles said they would be more

interested in energy-efficient upgrades to their current home if they weren't so expensive.

"There are a lot of things we want to do, like the outdoor fireplace," Christine Jaissle said.

The home is not without some significant green features. Chief among them is the home's geothermal system that provides heating, cooling and hot water. The system is expected to bring energy savings of 67% a year over conventional heating and cooling systems that burn fossil fuel. The system cost \$40,000 for this home, but retrofits in existing homes are much less. A federal tax credit of 30% of the costs to install the system runs through 2016.

There are many other Earth-friendly features, including:

- The recycled leather on the family room floor and cork floors in the lower level from Canadian flooring company Torlys.
- Low-flush toilets and drought-resistant landscaping to reduce water usage.
- LED recessed lights in the kitchen.
- Oceanside glass tile in the bathrooms that is created from curbside recycled glass.

People who tour the home can view an energy audit to show the monthly operating costs for the home, said

Brian Szliter, vice president of Arteva Homes.

Green aside, there are a number of features that represent the latest in design including a Heat & Glo glass fireplace with glass chips that can change color, limestone walls in the loggia, Swarovski crystal lights on the powder room ceiling and frosted glass insets on doors for privacy.

Derek Asman, operations manager for Ron's Carpets and Design in Clinton Township, who installed the show house's flooring, said the leather floor costs \$11.95 a square foot installed. It holds up to a lot of abuse and comes with a five-year light-commercial warranty.

"It would be comparable to an exotic wood," he said. "It's unusual because people don't know it's out there."

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Arteva Homes brought together 30 local building product companies to showcase their innovative products in the show house. The finished basement features a wine bar.



View of the stand-up glass-enclosed shower with recycled tile and bathtub in the master bathroom. Recycled glass was used for most of the kitchen and bathroom tiles.



The loggia outdoor space with a gas fireplace. The walls are made of limestone. The show home will be open to the public for at least a year.