



Macomb Daily staff photo by Craig Gaffield

Brian Szliter of Arteva Homes, Helen Velas, designer/president of Eleni Interiors, and Vito Terracciano, also of Arteva Homes, in the opulently appointed kitchen of the 2010 Green Home in Macomb Township.

What a good idea

Idea Show House strives to be the home of the future

By Heidi Bitsoli

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When the original is a hit, you can almost guarantee a sequel. In this case, it's not a movie, but a show house. And this sequel will easily be as good as the original, with the same winning formula, although bigger and better.

The 2010 Idea Show House, (ideashowhouse.com), in Macomb Township's Riverwoods neighborhood, opened to raves last year, boasting less waste — of space, energy usage and resources — while having a wealth of all the good you want from a home.

The 2011 Idea Show House, part of the Creekside Village Community, is now under construction in Shelby Township, set to open in September. Both houses feature the work of more than 30 green companies, working together to build a beautiful, efficient home from foundation to rooftop to brick exterior, and everything in between.

Vito Terracciano, vice president, Arteva Homes, (www.arteva.com), said the houses are called the Yacht Series because, like a yacht, these homes "build on a small space that feels big."

The houses are replete with "wow" factors, whether you're looking for design ideas, green living, ways to save on utilities, or simply in the market for a new house.

In touring the 2010 Show House — open to the public daily except Thursdays — visitors agree, it feels positively palatial. At 3,168-square-feet, with four bedrooms, and three-and-a-half baths, there's plenty of room for work and play. Consider these amenities: spacious rooms, four-car garage, loggia with fireplace, library, basement wet bar, home office space, luxurious master bathroom, walk-in closets and more. Interior design details, courtesy of Helen Velas, of Eleni Interiors, (www.eleniinteriors.com), gives this two-story colonial with a generous basement a distinct air of elegance.

Although many of the same features will be included, at 3,967-square-feet, with three full- and two half-baths and an outdoor courtyard with pizza oven and fireplace — the central focus of the home, Terracciano said — it is larger and grander. In addition, the heating and cooling system is even more efficient.

Size is not the only factor, however; efficient and innovative utilization of space is a top priority. On that front, Terracciano gives architect Dominic Tringali, of Dominic Tringali Architects, (www.dtarchitects.com), all the credit.

Tringali describes his handiwork as the "design of the new millennium." The goal, Tringali is to "try to make it a more liveable house ... (with a) good use of space. (These are) all things people are looking for."

Not just beautiful, these houses are also green, which happily translates to saving green. The Macomb Township home features a 92%, high-efficiency furnace by Lennox, (www.lennox.com/residential/), and the Shelby home will have geothermal heating and cooling by ClimateMaster, (www.climatemaster.com).

Geothermal technology involves tapping heat sources from deep below the earth's surface via pipes built a couple hundred feet below ground. Water circulating through these pipes carries the heat back to the house. To cool the home, the process is reversed.

Both systems are Energy Star certified, and going geothermal instantly yields a 30 percent tax credit.

Climate control technology also nets major savings: The cost to heat the Macomb home hovers around \$200 a month, and the geothermal system promises a monthly heating/cooling bill of less than \$100 for nearly 4,000-square feet of house.

The Low-E windows, by Jeld-Wen, (www.jeld-wen.com), are installed tightly to keep drafts and allergens from blowing in. And for those who prefer to breathe easier, the homes use wooden flooring throughout much of the floor plan, with floors crafted off-site and custom-fitted, to save money and dust upon installation.

Tringali said his homes boast a number of perks besides being beautiful and efficient. With mortgage rates just under 3 percent, paired with greater efficiency, these homes make for a smart, long term investment.

As a show home, the 2010 model is priced at \$489,000 and comes complete with special features, Terracciano said. Custom models built from scratch would ring in at \$580,000.



Outdoor "loggia" living space features the perfect blend of outdoor enjoyment and indoor design.