



Designing and Building Green since 1979

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Architects • General Contractors • Cabinetmakers



Fall 2009 Owners Letter

At this time of year, we like to reflect on the work we have done and the people we have had the pleasure to work with. As many of you have experienced, we are doing more of the carpentry work "in-house". This has allowed us to keep our staff employed. Our goal is always to provide the highest quality services people need to improve and enjoy their homes and other spaces. As always, there is no charge for the first visit.

We have some news to share. Anyone who gives a referral that results in a job (over \$5,000) will receive a gift of 8 hrs Handyperson or Interior Design Labor. We are also exploring social networking and/or blogs for marketing and communication. We would appreciate any suggestions or ideas you have. And, we are certified as a Women Owned Business.

We were reminded of our company's history when we heard that Mary Jane's career was discussed at an MRES (Minnesota Renewable Energy Society)

meeting as they planned an anniversary party. She was a founding member. MRES is a statewide organization that promotes Renewable Energy with classes and other events. As we enter our 31st year, we are proud to look back on our accomplishments and look forward to what the future may hold!

As always, we wish you all the best. Have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Marcia and Mary Jane



Rebates & Tax Credits

Marcia attended a seminar in late September and Whole Builders is now certified to work with Project Reenergize; a program through the State of Minnesota to help create jobs and save energy. By the time you read this, the monies may already be gone – it is sort of a "cash for clunkers" for your home. (There is a possibility that the project will receive more funding.) To participate, you must work with a certified General Contractor, your home must be built before 2000, be less than 3,000 SF – NO income guidelines. There are rebates; up to \$4,000 if you insulate/seal your attic and do windows, or \$2,500 for windows alone. And, the great part is you still qualify for the Federal Tax Credit; up to \$1,500/30% of cost; for energy improvements. We have the information about both programs. Feel free to call or email if you have any questions.

GREEN Remodel: Twin City Friends Meeting House

We are proud of our recent involvement with a large maintenance and mechanical upgrade project for the Twin Cities Friends Meeting House in St. Paul. We worked with them to trouble shoot and resolve moisture problems created by roof and window leaks. The Friends were committed to making energy saving and healthy material choices through the whole process.

Our scope for this project included:

Extensive demolition of moisture compromised areas and mold remediation by Moldex, Inc.

Atomic Recycling was able to recycle over 70% of the materials disposed of in the dumpsters.

Existing roof trusses were evaluated for future solar electric panels.

Closed cell foam was used to provide the highest R-value, and meet the requirements of insulating a flat roof area.

Windows were replaced where necessary, and exterior trim and flashing replaced to prevent moisture penetration.

A new white membrane Duro-Last roof was installed, helping to minimize heat gain during the summer.

All new drywall was paperless, with fiberglass tape, and hypoallergenic joint compound to eliminate the organic material, formaldehyde and preservatives found in standard paper faced drywall, paper tape and joint compound.

No-VOC paint was used at walls and ceiling with No-VOC tint.

A fully modulating electric boiler and in-floor heating was installed.

HVAC included a 95% efficient modulating 3-zone furnace, a dehumidifier and a heat recovery ventilator.

A movable AirPura air cleaner was purchased to continuously clean the air.

A motion activated fan was installed in the bath.

LED lights were retrofitted into existing recessed cans, reducing the energy use to 12W per fixture.

Kitchen & Bath Remodel: Tangletown Addition



In this house, our design challenge was to rework the existing kitchen and bath and maintain a strong visual connection to the backyard. We built a 5' x 12' addition off the back of the house to create space for the relocated half bath and easier access to the rear door.

In the kitchen, we redesigned the space to become more functional for the homeowners who love to cook. We located the fixtures to create a comfortable work triangle and built cabinets to the full ceiling height to create maximum storage. A dedicated space was designed for rolling out pastry, with storage for baking ingredients, small



appliances and cookware. The pastry area has a Cambria counter, and the other countertops throughout the kitchen are Paperstone. New stainless steel appliances were installed as well as an 18" cooler for wine storage.

New lighting in the kitchen includes a pendant over the sink, surface mounted fixtures overhead and LED undercabinet lighting to provide direct task lighting on the work surfaces.

Marmoleum flooring flows through the kitchen, bath and into the back entry. Windows now fill the new wall to the backyard to provide maximum daylight and a direct visual connection to the beautifully landscaped backyard. Built-in cabinets were installed at the back entry for shoes and other storage.



GREEN Cabinets



We specialize in building sustainable cabinetry at Whole Builders. Take a look at the list below to find out what makes our cabinet construction GREEN:

1. Our cabinet boxes and shelving are made from NAUF Plywood, which means it has no added urea formaldehyde off-gassing.
2. Hardwood used in our cabinet door and drawer construction is locally grown in the midwest.
3. We use non-toxic adhesives.
4. Water-borne clear polyurethane that is Greenguard Certified is considered our standard cabinet finish.
5. We offer low-VOC wood stain for those interested in alternative finish options.



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