

Tuscan-style home in Dundee on track for LEED rating

By: Lindsey O'Brien in Focus on Energy and Sustainability April 11, 2012 9:43 am

Visions of a green home may include images of boxy, modernistic structures covered in sensors and solar panels.

But a house under construction in Dundee is proving that green building is not necessarily tied to particular design choices. In this case, a traditional Tuscan-style home is on track to earn a [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design](#) gold rating.

Owners: Claus Christensen and Annette Skinner

Project manager: Carson Benner, Cellar Ridge Custom Homes

Architect: m.o.daby design

Interior designer: Carrie Gates

"A green house doesn't necessarily have to be modern or crunchy," said the project's designer, **Matt Daby** of [m.o.daby design](#).

"This home is being built in traditional Mediterranean style, so for me the big point is that 'green' isn't necessarily an aesthetic decision – it's systems-based."

The project is in the heart of Yamhill County's wine country. McMinnville-based [Cellar Ridge Custom Homes](#) saved the basement, foundation and second-story floors of an existing structure overlooking hills to the south of Fairview Drive, and is now building all around it.

Sustainable materials are a big focus of the project. The rafters are made of restoration juniper that Sustainable Northwest Wood sourced from Eastern Oregon. Walnut for the flooring was salvaged from a distillery in Iowa. And the stucco for the facade is made with locally sourced Columbia River sand.

The site also features buried, 5,000-gallon rainwater catchment tanks that will eventually provide water to flush the home's toilets. A ground-mounted solar array will provide 5 kilowatts of energy, and a super-efficient HVAC system will provide additional energy savings.

The project, known as "Three Towers," is expected to finish this summer.