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»»» Vedic Green Home, Vero Beach, Fla.

Owner and architect Richard Bialosky says this home was to be the forerunner of a 90-home development that has been put on hold due to the economy. But while he waits, he enjoys life in a home that takes sustainability to a different level than a typical green home.

Bialosky and his partner, David Ederer of Navo Builders, have redefined what a “healthy house” is by drawing inspiration from Vedic architecture and avoiding types of technology that may prove harmful to people’s health.

Vedic architecture www.vedicarchitecture.org is an ancient system of design and planning in accord with Natural Law with the goal of connecting individual life in full harmony with cosmic life.

Some of the influences you will see in this house are its orientation (east), and the fence around it. But it is more philosophical, and much of the concepts of it are invisible. “You have to create something that is in harmony with deeper levels of nature. People who visit our home say they are peaceful and note how centered the house feels,” says Bialosky.

Another facet that is not well-known is the negative effects of electromagnetic fields (EMFs) on homeowners’ health. (For more on this, see www.electricalpollution.com.) The team minimizes the effects of EMF pollution by using fiberglass rebar because with closed steel loops you create a place where EMFs act like antennas. All the wiring is in metallic conduit. There are no dimmers and no wireless—nothing that can chop sine waves into junk current that may cause biochemical reactions in human cells.

The team explains how using sustainable systems may mean a little extra education on the front end but pays dividends on the back end. As an example, the Energy Star rater took the house apart to see the impacts of various products and systems. She converted the house to concrete with regular windows and got 18 tons for the AC. Then, she took away the vented attic and replaced it with a sealed one, which took it to 16 tons. The AAC block dropped it to 13 tons. With high-end impact windows and 30” soffits to keep the sun and rain off walls, it cut the AC to 7.5.

“We’re fanatics,” says Bialosky. “Some level of fanaticism is one of the core things. Some of the subs we work with we get on the same wavelength immediately. They live and breathe moving this stuff into a new universe.”

1 This 4,800-square-foot home is built of Aercon autoclaved aerated concrete block coated with Sider-Oxydro Marble-Kote AAC stucco. AAC block is made of quartzite, sand, lime, and water, and processed into a block with high compressive strength and thermal insulation, and low weight.

2 The judges noted the good use of outdoor living space, especially in the atrium, which helps interior ventilation. Note the rainchain at left. “A rainchain wakes you up inside. Tunes people to be more in harmony with nature. Then you start living a sustainable core belief,” says Bialosky.

3 The kitchen has formaldehyde-free cabinets and Energy Star appliances. The walls here and throughout the house are of American Clay Earth Plaster, which is an environmentally friendly alternative to cement, gypsum, acrylic, and lime plasters.



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Developer: Mandala Development Group www.mandalaclub.com
Landscape architect: Warren McCormick and Associates