

Becoming a Green Building Expert in Less than Two Years

Grey Lundberg is president of CMI Homes, a custom builder in Bellevue, Wash. Like many builders, he had heard about green building.

"My perception was it was sort of this fringe radical environmental-type of building, with straw bale houses with vegetation roofs. I'm thinking, 'There's no way you're going to get me to be doing that kind of stuff.'"

Before going green, he prided himself on being at the high-end of custom home building as far as quality and customer service was concerned.

About two years ago a client he had previously built for approached Lundberg.

"She wanted me to build this home," he says, "and she said she had an idea of making it a Built Green showcase home. I said, 'Well that's interesting. Let's talk about it.'"

Lundberg and his client had some discussions. He then looked at Built Green Seattle's green building checklist and got really excited.

"This is not completely changing my way of doing things," said Lundberg. "I'm already doing most of this stuff."

"It was my niche," he adds. "A high-end home that's cutting edge with systems technologies, energy efficiency and indoor air quality. We're building homes with materials that are much more durable, more friendly to the environment. I've had a big learning curve this year."



CMI Homes' Built Green showcase home is located in Suncadia, a resort community about 15 minutes east of Seattle. The natural landscape outside of the building envelope was left untouched.

Photo courtesy of Northwest Property Imaging



The dining room of CMI Homes' Built Green Home at Suncadia. The interior and exterior 10 by 10 Douglas fir columns are from trees removed from the site to build the house.

Photo Courtesy of Northwest Property Imaging

The Built Green show case home was completed in June.

"This showcase home has gotten so much attention," says Lundberg. "I'm now sort of the resident expert on green building. But I'm getting my information from people who've been doing this stuff for years."

Lundberg was a speaker at the Built Green Conference in Seattle this March.

"I was standing there at that green building conference, getting ready to speak," says Lundberg. "I never would have thought in my wildest dreams I'd be in this position."