

Architect builds 'green' house in St. Augustine with hopes to inspire similar projects

By Stuart Korfhage

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On a recent afternoon, visitors padded around Rory Reynolds' justcompleted house near Lighthouse Park on their shoe-less feet, free to inspect a residence constructed in a manner few are used to seeing.

What makes the home a showpiece — aside from its incredible water views and overall style — is the fact that it is an ultra-efficient abode that was built to exacting standards of eco-friendliness.

While proud of what he designed

and helped build, Reynolds, an architect from Los Angeles, would be happy if what he's done wasn't exactly unique.

That's one of the reasons the home was on display, with hosting duties shared by representatives of the green building industry.

"St. Augustine doesn't have anything really like this as far as green construction," Reynolds said. "I think it's nice, and I would love to see more green homes of this caliber being constructed."

The house has 2,000 square feet of living space on a lot just more than 100 feet away from Salt Run. It was built to meet the strict certification standards of several environmental or energy efficiency certifications, including Florida Water Star Gold, Florida Green Home and LEED Pistinum.

"The benefit of going this direction is our bills are coming in at less than \$40 per month and just the indoor environmental quality of the home is (pristine)," said Reynolds, adding that indoor cleanliness was the reason anyone entering the

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The second level interior of architect Rory Reynolds' home showcases the use of recycled drywall, bamboo flooring and energy-efficient plumbing, lighting and appliances.