

## Spivey Homes and Green Building

Willis Spivey established Spivey Construction Co., Inc. in 1975, and for over 30 years the company has specialized in commercial design/build projects and high-end custom homes. Located in the Lake Norman vicinity of Mooresville, NC, the company, now called Spivey Homes, has built a reputation of impeccable distinction for its attention to detail and technical craftsmanship on both residential and commercial projects.

Realizing the importance of a healthy environment, the company became a member of the American Lung Association and began using the ALA Health House Program guidelines in all its building projects. Spivey has since become a leader in the building community by utilizing new methods and technologies to create better indoor air quality both in residential and commercial projects.

Sustainable or "green" building practices promote the construction of buildings that are healthier for the occupants and better for the environment. These practices reduce the tremendous impact that building design, construction and maintenance can have, both on people and on the environment. According to the U.S. Department of Energy's Center for Sustainable Development, buildings consume 40% of the world's total energy, 25% of its wood harvest and 16% of its water.

The building industry is the nation's largest manufacturing activity, representing more than 50% of the nation's wealth and 13% of its GDP. With this in mind, it's easy to see how energy and materials consumption in buildings can contribute significantly to global climate change. By making a concerted effort towards selecting sustainable and Earth-friendly materials, utilizing alternative energy sources like solar and geothermal, and reducing water consumption we can make a significant difference in our environment.

However, sustainable building practices go beyond energy and water conservation to incorporate environmentally sensitive site planning, utilization of efficient building materials and maintaining superior indoor environmental quality. Some of the main benefits are:

- Environmentally effective use of building materials
  
- Lower electric and water utility costs
  
- Enhanced physical and emotional health,

- Increased productivity
  
- Long-term economic returns
  
- Reduced environmental impact

Going Green is an obvious choice compared to doing things the conventional way. Sustainability helps to conserve the planets resources, and saves you money by cutting back your reliance on fossil fuels. So whether you choose to renovate your existing home with more eco-friendly heating and cooling options, or to start from the ground up with a new project keeping sustainability in mind, we can help you make the right choices to keep the planet, and your wallet, happy.