



ZK Homes Constructs First Certified Gold NAHBGreen Home in Houston

Eco-friendly luxury is standard in Sugar Land's Enclave at Lake Pointe

The masterminds behind ZK Homes, Lee Zieben and John Kirksey Jr, are true innovators in the green building arena, which has been gaining momentum nationally. In an industry-leading move, ZK Homes was the first builder in Houston to achieve the highest Gold certification from the NAHB National Green Building Program. Homes certified in the NAHB National Green Building Program meet benchmarks set for energy, water and resource efficiency; indoor environmental quality, lot and site development and homeowner education and home maintenance.

"The National Green Building Standard is now the first and only green building rating system approved by ANSI, making it the benchmark for green homes," said Ron Jones, who chaired the consensus committee charged with developing the standard. Since January 2009, more than 200 single-family homes, remodeling projects and developments in 43 states have received National Green Building Certification, with another 300-plus scheduled for inspections.

A Unique Approach to Homebuilding

ZK Homes focuses on developing high-end, urban gated communities, with a high density of patio and town homes. The

company is unique in that they develop and build exclusively in their own communities. Zieben and Kirksey create an entire lifestyle for the homebuyer, using extensive recreational amenities, appealing streetscapes, attractive landscaping and preserved natural features to increase the value of the homes. The communities also include amenities including walking trails, dog parks, gathering areas, community parks and water features.

With a tagline "Luxury is Standard," ZK Homes has proved to be a rare gem in the building of semi-custom homes. The standards in these homes include options that most builders up-charge for. The ZK partners want to ensure that their homeowners will receive a home that is reflective of the show home and the elements that they view when touring other homes in the community.

"Luxury is standard" in ZK's green communities, too. The ZK Green program integrates some of the building industry's best practices and eco-friendly materials to create healthy, energy-efficient homes in Houston that allow homeowners to reduce energy costs. "We believe in products that improve the built environment and reduce the carbon footprint at the same time," says John Kirksey.

Just to name a few, Zieben and Kirksey are

incorporating green building products like tankless hot water heaters, spray foam insulation, top of the line low-E energy-efficient windows, high SEER rated HVAC systems with hospital grade filtration devices, and water-saving toilets. The company has teamed with green partners including Rinnai, GE, Baldwin, Anderson Windows, Icyene, Jacuzzi and Lennox, all of whom provide convenience and luxury for the home, and ensure energy efficiency and affordability as well.

Additional green products incorporated into new ZK Homes include tile roofing with underlying radiant barrier to provide additional energy efficiency and money savings, as well as direct vented fireplaces that minimize heat loss through the chimney and are 70% more energy-efficient. Touch screen programmable thermostats that are Energy Star-rated provide pre-programmed temperature settings that allow homeowners to control the humidity of their home while saving on their heating and cooling by not excessively running their HVAC system.

"We design our homes to not only be energy-efficient but incorporate sustainable products and materials that enhance the quality of life for our homeowners while reducing the impact on our environment," Kirksey continues. "We are one of just a handful of builders in the nation that

is committed to building each and every home to the NAHBGreen Gold level, the highest certification offered by the National Association of Home Builders.”

The talents and abilities of the professional service providers they contract with play a vital role in adding to the overall structural integrity of each ZK constructed home. The engineer completes an inspection prior to and upon completion of every critical structural phase. The use of technology is also prevalent in the design and building process of ZK Homes. PDAs, wireless card enabled laptops, and online portals for suppliers and homeowners allow for better control and to document the entire process through electronic communication and processes.

The Enclave at Lake Pointe

The newest venture for Zieben and Kirksey is the Enclave at Lake Pointe community, located in Sugar Land. The gated community will contain 100 Mediterranean-style patio and town homes, many of which will be waterfront homes, priced from the high \$400s to the low \$700s. All of the ZK Homes in the Enclave at Lake Point will be Gold-certified to the NAHB standard.

“A little over a year ago, we were selected by Planned Community Developers (developer of First Colony) to develop the largest remaining residential tract of land available in Lake Pointe Town Center,” Lee Zieben said. “We were given the opportunity to let ZK Homes and its sister company Zieben Kirksey Development develop and build an upscale, urban, gated community in the heart of downtown Sugar Land.”

The higher density, urban infill development product of Zieben Kirksey Development is a relatively new concept for Sugar Land, and required approval from both Sugar Land City Council and the Planning and Zoning Committee.

Kirksey says, “This project represents infill development in Sugar Land – a turning point for a suburban city gone metropolitan.” The high-end homes will be constructed on the northwestern peninsula of Lake Pointe Town Center at State Highway 6 and US Highway 59. “While other patio-styled homes exist within specific planned developments in Sugar Land, none have consisted of such a high-end, semi-custom product,” adds Zieben.

A Rising Star in Houston

In their short four year history, ZK Homes has already received numerous PRISM Awards, including Patio/Garden Home of the Year, Product Design of the Year for homes in the \$400,000 to \$600,000 range, and Best Custom Elevation for homes in the \$400,000 to \$600,000 range. Recently the company was honored for Best Master Bedroom in Texas by the Texas Associa-

tion of Builders. The company has already been featured in The Houston Chronicle and Houston Business Journal five times. The company was recently named as the 36th fastest growing private company in Houston.

For more information about ZK Homes call (713) 715-1454 or e-mail marketing@zkhomes.com, or visit them online at www.zkhomes.com.

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