

Sustainable Design Plans for Residential Home with Energy Star 3.0 Rating

In January 2012, at the recommendation of Mr. Charles Juris, member of the Energy House team, Great Seal was tabbed to serve as the Design Architect for ERM's latest Energy House Five Project, at the proposed residence of Mr. and Mrs. Mike and Kara Reinke.

The Reinke family, who came from a long line of builders based out of Massachusetts, had purchased a property with an existing house on a quiet cul-de-sac adjacent to a public park. Their vision included demolishing the existing structure and constructing a new, energy efficient home that their family, highlighted by two beautiful children, could remain in for years and years to come. The new structure was to be approximately 7,500 square feet, and include two floors and a basement. Our team's make-up proved to be a great fit as we worked seamlessly together right from the start. Mr. and Mrs. Reinke's vision of their new home as a long-term place of residence necessitated the employment of energy upgrades. Their vision was instrumental and allowed me to expedite the development of their home's unique design plans.

The Energy House took the lead on a number of pivotal initiatives necessary to develop sustainable designs that met our client's energy requirements, beginning by identifying existing components from the original house for re-use and by employing benchmarking and modeling to develop a cost analysis of the home's energy envelope. They analyzed the efficiency of geo-thermal heating and cooling and identified the most energy efficient appliances and lighting. The Energy House also provided recommendations for a water recovery system and smart technology program that included the management of wireless internet, cable television, pool equipment, cistern, and home security. Members of the Energy House team will also oversee the inspection of all performance and prescriptive paths necessary to obtain the Energy Star 3.0 label and certification at the project's conclusion, in the fall of 2013.

ABOUT GREAT SEAL Great Seal, LLC (Great Seal) is an award-winning architectural design firm founded by regionally recognized and nationally decorated designer, Lyndl T. Joseph. Great Seal is a Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) that provides customized solutions and architectural expertise uniquely tailored to client needs. Great Seal offers state-of-the-art design tools, industry-best technical, management, and quality control practices, and services of some of the best people in the business to capture the unique requirements and client needs of complex projects, design innovative, uniquely tailored solutions, and achieve our clients objectives. Headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, and located minutes away from our nation's capital, Great Seal has successfully managed the design solutions for complex projects since 1997.

