



## High-Performance Modular Homes

*This system was green before green was in.*

The modular building system has been environmentally friendly from day one because it's an efficient use of materials, manpower and energy. The construction cycle time is shortened by more than two-thirds compared to conventional site building, requiring less energy use—not to mention dramatic savings on financing—and the quality control procedures in the factory assure energy efficiency as well as the performance of the finished product.

set by All American Homes (Decatur, IL), a longtime modular home producer. The fully functional green home, designed by Michelle Kaufmann Designs, will be on exhibit on the east lawn of the museum grounds through Jan. 4, 2009.

### FAMILY-FRIENDLY DESIGN

The demonstration home exhibit offers the home-buying public and the merely curious a view into the latest innovations in smart energy consumption and

materials and vendors specified by Michelle Kaufmann Designs to build this home were new to us," says Dwight Martin, quality assurance manager at All American. "From roofing, to rain shield barriers, to tile flooring materials composed of recycled goods and even uniquely engineered floor joist systems, this project has provided us with a better understanding of what it really means to engineer and build an environmentally friendly home. Green building is the future for All American homes and we'll



Photos courtesy of All American Homes.



Builders employing the modular building system have long known these structures are far tighter than site building. By way of example, some homeowners even received Energy Star certification long after the homes were turnkeyed, using only standard insulation and window packages.

This explains why the green building movement is so quickly embracing this building system. In fact, there are so many green modular projects going on around the United States that we simply didn't have the space to profile them all in this guide. A good example of this building system's potential, however, is the exhibit *Smart Home: Green + Wired, Powered by ComEd and Warmed by Peoples Gas*. This demonstration home, opening at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago on May 8, was constructed and

healthy-living environments. The 2,500 sq.ft. design, called the mkSolaire, focuses on family-friendly interior architecture. The home demonstrates the benefits of energy-efficient heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems and earth-friendly building materials.

Seven factory-constructed modules make up the home—five for the house and two for the garage. All seven were "test fit" at the factory to ensure accuracy in construction prior to being transported to the museum site, where it was set on its foundation.

"This has been an exciting project in that many of the environmentally friendly mate-

take this experience forward."

Rick Bedell, president of All American Homes, says the exhibit at the museum allowed the company to expand its green initiatives and knowledge. "We are in the midst of evolving as a company towards designing and building more environmentally friendly, energy-efficient and sustainable products. We will continue these efforts



throughout our company with the philosophy that being green is good for the environment and good for business."

Tickets for the *Smart Home: Green + Wired* exhibit, which opens May 8, are now on sale at [msichicago.org](http://msichicago.org). ●