



504 Gum Spring Road, Brunswick, MD

Maryland & D.C.
Tour of Solar and Green Homes

October 3 - 4, 2015

11am to 5pm



DIRECTIONS

From Frederick: 340 West, MD 17 Brunswick Exit, Take left off exit, follow MD 17/Souder Rd for 6 miles, Turn right onto East H Street, Take immediate first left on to Gum Spring Road. First Barn style house on left after you round the bend.

ABOUT THE HOME

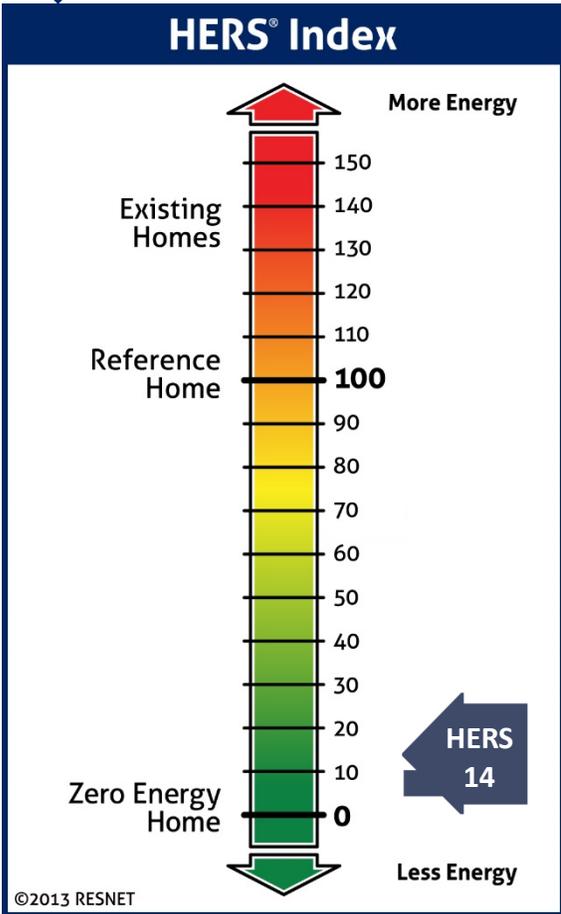
This 2,500 sq ft Near Zero, Modular Passive Solar home tucked on 3/4 acres in Brunswick, MD was complete in August 2015. Passive design by owners and built by Finish Werks Custom Builders of Savage, MD. Sixty percent more efficient than a house built to code, this house also qualifies for U.S Dept of Energy Zero Energy Ready Home program.

See the "Gum Spring Hollow Homestead" article on page 8.



FINISH WERKS CUSTOM BUILDERS delivers high performance green homes, additions, and light commercial buildings.

HERS® Index



As a Design/Builder, in-house services include consulting on lot acquisition and development, custom building design and turnkey construction, with an emphasis on prefab/modular technology and eco-friendly building methods.

Performance options cover Energy Star to Zero Energy; our finishes & amenities span great value to luxury.

Our expertise and reputation are proven and discernable.

Our mission always: TRUTH IN BUILDING



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Gum Spring Hollow Homestead

by Antonette Vasseur

When my husband and I first started talking about building our forever home we were very intrigued by the Passive House (Passiv Haus) movement. Clément is from France, so the idea of building a home that required little energy for heating or cooling wasn't so foreign to him. A dream home to us was more than just granite countertops, master bathrooms, or formal dining areas. Truly living in our home and not just working outside of our home to be able to live in it....to live a sustainable life. Not just throwing up some solar panels, but a home that was built to be three times more energy efficient than the average home so little energy was needed, and when it was needed it was offset by solar panel use. A Passive Solar Near Zero home...THAT was our dream.



Clement designed the entire house using the auto cad program Sketch Up. He created a 3d rendering of the house so we could time the sunlight and place windows in locations that would use the sun to heat in the winter, and extended roof overhang to keep cool in the summer. He used computer software to estimate how much energy the house would require, right down to the number of loads of laundry in a month to the number of lights we switch on — or forget to switch off. The idea was to try and gauge how much energy our family uses and how much solar energy would be needed to offset that.



Construction began on our home in early spring of 2015 in a modular factory in PA. We choose modular build because it's higher quality, sustainable, innovative, efficient, cost-effective, environmentally friendly, and shorter time to completion. Modular spoke to our little eco hearts, and our little budget.

At the time I am writing this, our Near Zero homestead is near complete, with a move in date at the end of August. From the outside it's everything I had dreamed: red barn style board and batten siding, rustic Y style beams on a wrap around porch, and galvanized gooseneck lights to tie the entire "Eco Farmhouse Chic" style together. But on the inside of our home, within it's very super insulated walls to the super low E double paned windows and doors, is what makes the dream of a sustainable energy efficient home a reality for us. Our home exceeds the R values for homes to code:R10 slab insulation, R23 basement walls, R34 framed walls, R55 attic insulation. A modest 5kW Solar PV produces what little energy this family of five (soon to be six) needs. Set to test 10-15 on the HERS scale, I am excited to say that our near zero dream home became a reality, and we look forward to opening our doors this year in October for the Maryland Solar Tour and share everything from the planning, design, financing, and build process of our home.



We are home "G" on the Sunday tour.