

## Why Green Remodeling Makes Sense

*"What is the use of a house, if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?"  
-Henry David Thoreau, 1845*

Green Building and sustainable practices are currently the big 'buzz' all over the country. We hear and see advertisements from major manufacturers of everything from building materials to vehicles and suppliers of services and energy sources. There are programs on television, the radio, and even on the big screen that emphasize awareness of living a more sustainable lifestyle and how that might affect the future of our planet. The building industry has become both a target and a facilitator for change in this sustainable and Green arena.

Several San Jose NARI members have taken steps to become active leaders in Green Building in the Bay Area. These individuals have made the commitment to running their businesses using sustainable principles and practices, and remodeling 'Green'. It was with the leadership of San Jose NARI members, that the National NARI Green Remodelers' Education Program was developed and is now being introduced to NARI members across the country. In the NARI program, a Green Remodeling Professional is described as: "A remodeling professional who considers sustainability and maximizing nature's resources and energy in an efficient and responsible manner in the conduct of their business."

The remodeling process is the perfect opportunity to incorporate sustainable principles and practices and make a positive impact on the environment. Supporting the local economy by using materials and suppliers also lessens the use of fossil fuels in transporting the things used in the remodeling process. When you are working with an existing building, it usually takes fewer resources to make your home more environmentally friendly, than to build an entirely new home. It's "green" to capitalize on the energy and materials that have already been invested in your home.

Making environmentally conscientious choices goes beyond using eco-friendly materials and energy efficient systems. It involves looking at the big picture: your home functioning as a system which is a part of the bigger system of the site, your neighborhood, the community, the region, the country, and the world. Your choices will make an impact on the planet.

By making environmentally conscientious choices, we can create homes, neighborhoods, and communities that are wonderful and healthful places in which to live and which improve our lives.

Remember: Recycle, Re-use, Re-claim – REMODEL!

*(by Susan Davis, CKBR, CGBP, of Spectrum Fine Homes, Inc. Susan is a Certified Green Building Professional, and helped develop the national NARI Green Remodelers' Education Program. She also serves as Education co-chair for the San Jose NARI chapter)*