

Kennecott Land



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News Release

U of U College of Architecture + Planning and Kennecott Land pair students with Daybreak home builders to create sustainable home designs

(Salt Lake City, Utah – April 27, 2006) – During the next 50-75 years a plan for growth along Salt Lake Valley’s West Bench will require the expertise of trained architects who understand the need for the wise use of energy, land, materials and technology in building sustainable, enduring communities.

Through a partnership between Kennecott Land and the University of Utah College of Architecture + Planning, 12 graduate students were paired with four home builders who build in Kennecott Land’s Daybreak community. Destination Homes, Liberty Homes, Hamlet Homes and Bangerter Homes are four of Daybreak’s eight home builders that were paired with three masters-level architects in the Kennecott Land Resource Conservation Housing program, otherwise called Suburban Redux.

“The intent of the program is to provide the students practical insight to their designs, help them understand the client-consultant relationship, understand the housing market, expose the builders to new and innovative designs, materials and green building practices as well as placement strategies that build a sense of community,” says architect Stephen James, Manager of Community Planning at Kennecott Land.

The students have been mentored by Kennecott Land and the four builders since January. Kennecott Land and each builder gave the students a set of guidelines to work within. Dave Bailey, the founder of Destination Homes, says the experience

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has been well worth the time as it has opened his eyes to the variety of new materials, approaches and design options. “Without this experience, the innovative approaches would have taken another 10 years or more to eat through the conservative construction industry -- this has given us a jumpstart to implement some of these ideas,” says Bailey, who may use some of the student’s ideas.

U of U Assistant Professor Ryan Smith says his students have been energized by the experience and by how it greatly improved each party’s understanding of the other’s roles. “The students better understand how structures actually get built and the responsibility of the architect and builder to build in sustainable ways and to create places where people want to live. This experience opened a new conversation between home builders and architects,” says Smith. “It has provided an excellent framework for innovative neighborhood design as well as opening up the options of using pre-fabricated and green building practices.”

“I learned not only about the environmental issues associated with building but also about the intangible details of what makes a strong community,” says Ryan Berry, a student assigned to Destination Homes. Berry’s home design has a dynamic focal point called a “street room” that connects the residents with the outside. He adds, “The experience of combining the resources of Kennecott Land and the opportunity for growth created a beneficial nexus that will, in the end, benefit the community.”

Berry and the other students also took part in a trip to San Francisco to observe examples of community design to stimulate ideas. “The trip inspired thought about what is possible,” says Niki Allison, a student assigned to Bangerter Homes. “I’ve become more aware of how to build a sustainable home and community.” Allison’s design is for an “empty-nester” complete with an efficient use of space, a private courtyard and play places for grand children.

For more information on sustainability, visit www.kennecottland.com

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