

# BETTER Builder

MAGAZINE

*the builder's source*

ISSUE 11 | FALL 2014  
WWW.BETTERBUILDER.CA



## The Healthy House Issue

Good Health Starts at Home



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## featurestory

By Daljit Basan and *Better Builder*

# +House: Sustainability and Contemporary LEED Gold-Targeted Home



ALL PHOTOS: HILTON TUDHOPE

The +House is healthy inside and out with maximized natural light, a green roof, and is built on a sustainable site with natural landscaping.

Combining contemporary design principles with sustainability and environmental sensibilities, +House located in Mulmur, Ont., was awarded the 2012 Design Excellence Award by the Ontario Association of Architects. The +House is equally unique and sustainable. Mindscape Innovations collaborated with superkül to provide consulting services in pursuit of acquiring LEED Gold certification. The home was designed with a keen eye toward environmental sensitivities by carefully selecting each component in the building design.

### Project Summary

Project Goal: LEED for Homes gold certification  
Project Type: Single-family residential on previously developed land, 2150 sq. ft.  
Project Partners: superkül Inc.

### Sustainable Metrics

Annual energy consumption: 25,378 ekWh  
Energy density: 126.89 ekWh/m<sup>2</sup>

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### Environmental and Healthy Design

In creating this healthy home design, the architect carefully secured materials, systems, and finishes to ensure there would be no adverse physical reaction by an environmentally sensitive client. Working with the client in selecting the materials was a key step in ensuring the house is truly

safe for the homeowner.

+House has targeted LEED Gold certification by reducing the cost and environmental impact of the home. To learn about some of the innovative features of the home, see photos and descriptions below. **BB**

**Daljit Basan, BES, is sustainable design specialist at Mindscape Innovations Group Inc.**



ALL PHOTOS: HILTON TUDHOPE

**Geothermal System (above left):** clean and safe source for heating and cooling, reduced utility costs, enhanced comfort, low maintenance. In pond, not trenched or drilled. **Environmentally Preferable Products (above right):** inert concrete blocks that produce no VOCs (volatile organic compounds) and inhibit the growth of fungi and moulds, natural clay plaster for interior wall finish, soy-based sealer for concrete floors and counters, PVC-free blackout roller shade fabric, untreated silk and hemp fabric for curtains, hospital-grade high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters in duct system. **Green Roof (below):** energy efficient, increases roofing membrane durability, stormwater management.







**Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)-Certified Wood (above):** wood used from forests that are responsibly managed and meet strict environmental and social standards. **Triple-Glazed Windows (above right):** greater insulation, maximum comfort, higher efficiency and energy savings.

**Operable Skylights and Windows:** offering passive ventilation and natural daylighting across 100 per cent of occupied floor area.

