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Ottawa builder hits three Platinum houses

Ottawa's RND Construction has completed three homes that have earned the LEED Canada for Homes Platinum rating.

President Roy Nandram is a green building pioneer going back 20 years in the Ottawa area, and has the certificates and awards on his office walls to prove it. The oldest of these might be a framed certificate denoting his completion of a Canadian General Standards Board course on Insulating Homes for Energy Conservation nearly 30 years ago in 1982, many years before "green" was the buzzword it is today. He became one of the first LEED [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] accredited professional in 2009.

At first glance, it is difficult for an average person to identify a 'green' home or 'green features'. To Nandram a green home typically uses less energy and water, fewer natural resources, creates less waste, and is healthier and more comfortable for the occupant. In a nutshell, green features of a home will dramatically reduce or eliminate the negative impact on our environment, and result in lower energy bills and better indoor air quality.

"We use an integrated design process to get the team together and work towards a common goal," he says. "Everyone needs to be thinking about sustainability from the start for a project to really be effective," says Nandram.

RND's eco-friendly construction starts with attention to details such as recycling discarded wood, repurposing disused materials and using low-VOC products at all times to reduce the impact of indoor air quality and the environment. Because of its recognized expertise, RND is as much advisor as builder on a project, often providing guidance for local architects, engineers, project managers, designers and subcontractors. www.rndconstruction.com



Wood Avenue House, Linda Chapman Architect, LEED score 100.5/136



Zen Barn, Christopher Simmonds Architect, LEED score 90.5/136



Nelson Street House, John Donkin Architect, LEED score 89/136