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**Press Release    Press Release    Press Release    Press Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Local Green Enthusiast, Drude Corbet, in partnership with Kelly McArdle Construction build “average cost” home that has already been certified as:**  
**Platinum Level LEED for Homes™**  
**Gold Level NAHB National Green Building Standard™ home**  
**EnergyStar™ home**  
**and Department of Energy Builders Challenge™ home**

**April 5, 2010** – Local “green” enthusiast, Drude Corbet, co-Founder of The Mobius Company ([www.TheMobiusCompany.com](http://www.TheMobiusCompany.com)), in partnership with Kelly McArdle Construction ([www.KellyMcArdle.com](http://www.KellyMcArdle.com)) completed the “Mean Lean Dream Green Home” ([www.MeanLeanDreamGreenHome.com](http://www.MeanLeanDreamGreenHome.com)) in New Hope Township in Iredell County. Since its completion at the end of 2009, the home has been certified as a Platinum Level LEED for Homes™ home, a Gold Level NAHB National Green Building Standard™ home, an Energy Star™ home and Department of Energy Builders Challenge™ home. Corbet and Kelly McArdle worked closely with EnergyWise Solutions, the third-party verifier for the various certifications.

The Corbet home is **one of only three** homes in the state of North Carolina to achieve the Platinum Level LEED for Homes™ certification, the highest level certification awarded by LEED for Homes™. Similarly, the home is **one of only two** homes in the state of North Carolina to achieve the Gold Level NAHB National Green Building Standard™ certification, the second highest level of certification awarded by NAHB. According to the Department of Energy’s E-Scale, the home’s 52 HERS rating is indicative of the fact that this “average home” will use about half the energy of a home built to code, thus resulting in the Builders Challenge™ certification.

In order to achieve these high-level certifications, Corbet, in partnership with Kelly McArdle Construction incorporated features that focused on sustainable living, water and energy efficiency, the use of environmentally preferred products, recycled material and local, healthy products. Corbet is thrilled the way the partnership has worked. “Green building really requires a highly collaborative team approach.

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We brought our ideas to Kelly McArdle, they shared their ideas with us, and we met with trades people who had their ideas. We ultimately incorporated the best of all the ideas”, Corbet stated.

The “mean” traditional ranch home is the average size, 2200 square feet, and cost \$124.00 per square foot, less than the average price, to build. Corbet incorporated many of the “desired” features for the typical home of the future as described by the National Association of Homebuilders. The house has four bedrooms, two of which serve as the Corbets’ offices and have French doors that open to the living space, two bathrooms, an open living space with kitchen, eating area and family room, a screened porch, expansive rear patio, front porch and large two-car garage with a workshop. Corbet also chose to use “cradle to grave” design and universal design so many of the features in the home are elderly-friendly and hand-capped accessible.

Likewise, Corbet incorporated “lean” features. Although the house is a simple ranch design, it does face True South. It was designed with the proper overhangs, so that the winter sun comes through the front windows but the summer sun does not. Corbet also chose to use a concrete floor in the house which acts as a heat sink, collecting heat during the day and throwing heat off at night in the winter months. In addition, the south facing exposure allowed Solar Pros of Lake Norman to easily install the solar panels for the SolarHot™ system which heats over 85% of the Corbets’ hot water. At Kelly McArdle’s suggestion, Corbet worked with Ferguson Plumbing Supply to purchase Kohler™ and American Standard™ fixtures that are very high-efficiency products. Corbet further achieved water conservation with a BRAE™ rain-catchment system and the use of native, drought-tolerant plants, purchased from Farm House Gardeners, who landscaped the property.

In keeping with a lean house, Kelly McArdle believes that 90% of building green is about the building envelope and the energy efficiency. Towards that end, the discussions with Ross&Witmer, who designed and installed the HVAC system governing the heat and air conditioning as well as the ERV (Energy Recovery Ventilator) and the fans through-out the house and garage, were particularly valuable. As Corbet stated, “We believe that the 52 HERS rating which is indicative of the fact that this “average home” will use about half the energy of a home built to code was accomplished because Ross&Witmer did such a great job on our project”. Likewise, Corbet approached Kelly McArdle about partnering with Members Interiors Construction. Members sells ClimatePro™, John Mansville’s blown-in fiberglass insulation product. Danny Kelly believes, “The combination of upgraded blown-in insulation, 2x6 finger-jointed studs, advanced framing techniques, foam exterior sheathing, radiant barrier roof sheathing and the overall tightness of the structure made for a very energy-efficient home.”

Corbet has not only built a “dream” home for himself and his wife, Angelina but is planning to demonstrate that an “average” green home can satisfy the American dream – a home that is affordable, attractive, high quality and low maintenance. He also hopes to demonstrate that building green is not just for the wealthy; rather the average American family can build a durable, energy-efficient, healthy home that appreciates in value. He plans to use the home as a showcase to educate and empower others to build green.

Corbet and his wife spent almost two years working with Joy Kennedy Young, finding the right piece of land for their home. Once they purchased the land, the Corbets worked with Charlotte architect Jim Gleeson, AIA in creating the house plan. Gleeson has been a pioneer in the field of green design for many years. Corbet then spent over a year interviewing builders while researching products that could be used in the home.

He and his wife chose Kelly McArdle Construction. Kelly McArdle is an award-winning company which combines the latest construction methods and materials with traditional styles and details; a philosophy not unlike their own.

Kelly McArdle's philosophy as stated by Danny Kelly, "We are eager for people to see that you can build green and still have traditional details in your house" added to Corbets' confidence in choosing the firm. Towards that end, the traditional brick ranch, uses brick purchased from Cunningham Brick and is 92% recycled brick. In addition, what appears to be a simple fireplace between the living space and the master bedroom is a Lennox™ model, with air-supply from outside the house, which can help heat the house as well.

Corbet's wife, Angelina is most proud of the decision that she and her husband made with respect to their green kitchen. While visiting a cabinet-makers shop, the Corbets noticed pieces of wood on the floor. When they inquired about the wood, they were told that it was Ambrosia Maple, a "scrap" wood that is used for inside components, not as cabinet doors. The Corbets loved the unusual markings and patterns in the wood. After convincing Dave Anthes of Hardwood Creations that they really liked the look of the wood, Hardwood Creations partnered with them to do the kitchen cabinets, fireplace mantles and bathroom cabinets in the Ambrosia Maple.

Now that the house is completed, Corbet continues to educate others about building green. Corbet hopes "to partner with like-minded organizations - whose mission is to bring green building to the average American as a way to honor Mother Earth: her land, air, water and inhabitants as well as a way to put disposable income back into the pockets of the average American."

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