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Local Green Enthusiast Partners with Kelly McArdle to build the first “average cost” LEED Platinum Level home in the North Carolina

July 1, 2009 – Local “green” enthusiast, Drude Corbet, and his wife Angelina, of The Mobius Company have engaged local builder Kelly McArdle (www.KellyMCardle.com) to build their “mean, lean, dream, green home” (www.MeanLeanDreamGreenHome.com) in Iredell County. Their home is expected to be one of the first homes in North Carolina to earn the United States Green Building Council’s (USGBC) LEED Platinum Level certification and the first “average cost” home to earn this certification. The home is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

The USGBC established the LEED Green Building Rating System™ several years ago to serve as “the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings.” Until recently, the rating system was not applicable to residential homes but a new category was created for residential homes in 2009. In order to qualify for the highest score of LEED Platinum Level, Corbet will incorporate many features that are emphasized by LEED; sustainable living, water and energy efficiency, the use of environmentally preferred products, recycled material and local, healthy products.

Corbet spent a year interviewing builders while researching products that could be used in the home. “We knew that we wanted a builder who was as passionate as we were about building this home and help us demonstrate the affordability of “green””, states Corbet. As luck would have it, the Corbets met Danny Kelly and Dan McArdle at Charlotte Clean and Green, a local green event held in April on the CPCC campus which is designed to showcase green vendors. “No sooner had we met Kelly and McArdle, we knew they were the right firm for us.” says Corbet.

Kelly McArdle Construction has been building homes since 1997. The award-winning company combines the latest construction methods and materials with traditional styles and details. As they got to know the firm, The Corbets became convinced that Kelly McArdle’s attention to detail and their stated philosophy to build everything to the best possible standard and stop at nothing to ensure a satisfied customer was the right philosophy for their project. Cont. on Page 2

In addition, Corbet liked that Kelly McArdle have the experience building homes that meet NC Healthy Built Homes and EarthCraft standards, two other industry standards for green.

The Corbets “mean” home will be the average size, 2200 square feet, and will cost no more than the average price per square foot to build. They have incorporated many of the “desired” features for the typical home of the future, such as 9’ ceilings, a well-appointed kitchen, office space, front and rear porches and decks, as well as universal design. Likewise, they plan to incorporate “lean” features such as simple design, energy-efficient, water conservation and use of native plants.

Corbet is not only building a “dream” home for him and his wife but are hoping to serve a greater cause. “It is our goal to build an “average” green home which satisfies the American dream – a home that is affordable, attractive, high quality and low maintenance. We also hope 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. We plan to use our home as a showcase to educate and empower others to build their own green homes.” states Corbet.

Corbet was born and raised in Ontario, Canada. He comments, “Before I even knew what it meant to be “green”, I was building homes from old barns and recycled materials. Over the years, I lost touch with my green side as I pursued various careers in manufacturing and technology! Then, at the end of 2004, I left the corporate world and went back to school. At 56, I started my green consulting practice and my dream to build green was resurrected.”

As one of the first graduates in the Certificate Program in The Renewable Energy Diploma Series at North Carolina State, Corbet acts as a consultant on projects as they relate to sustainable living, managing renewable energy, building green and using alternative fuels. Working with clients, Corbet created the idea of “Mobius living”: living compassionately in the world by honoring Mother Earth – her land, air, water and inhabitants. Corbet sees this project as a way to put his “money where his mouth is.” In addition, Corbet is a dowser and plans to tap the various underground springs on the property hoping to harness the water’s energy for micro-hydro power.

Corbet and his wife spent almost two years working with Joy Kennedy Young, finding the piece of land build their home. As a result of the interaction with Corbet, Joy became passionate about green building. She has since been awarded the National Association of REALTORS Green Designation and is an EcoBroker, the premier national green designation for real estate professionals.

Once they purchased the land, the Corbets worked with Charlotte architect Jim Gleeson, AIA (www.design-integration.net) in creating their house plan. Gleeson has been a pioneer in the field of green design for many years. He was doing passive solar as far back as 1975 and more recently became one of the first three LEED™ Accredited Professionals in the Carolinas in 2000.

The Corbets are continuing to invite other organizations to partner with The Mobius Company and Kelly McArdle in their efforts. They hope to continue to create a collaboration of like-minded organizations – one that is holistic and sustainable, like their home - whose mission is to bring green building to the average American.

You can learn more about the “mean lean dream green home” at www.MeanLeanDreamGreenHome.com.

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