



THE FRANKEL ORGANIZATION RECOGNIZED BY THE ENGINEERING SOCIETY OF DETROIT WITH AWARDS FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

As a Bloomfield, Michigan company with a 50-year reputation for custom homebuilding excellence and design innovation, one might think The Frankel Organization might be content to rest on its laurels. Yet with the completion of the nation's first green, barrier-free group home in Farmington Hills, Michigan, The Frankel Organization has continued to break new ground in home design and construction while utilizing its expertise to help make life better for the developmentally disabled.

Constructed for JARC – a Farmington Hills, Michigan-based non-profit agency that enables people with disabilities to live full, dignified lives in the community and provides support to their families – “The Nusbaum Home” designed and built by The Frankel Organization was recently recognized with both an ESD Construction Award and an ESD Design Award by the prestigious Engineering Society of Detroit during their annual event on June 23, 2010.

As a universal design home, the 3,200 sq. ft. Nusbaum Home was designed to accommodate both wheelchair bound and non-wheelchair bound residents – incorporating the features and amenities people with disabilities need for day-to-day living, while remaining functional and aesthetically pleasing for everyone who lives in or visits the home.

Essentials like curbless showers, bathroom hand rails, roll-under sinks, extra wide doorways and ramps were integrated with high-performance features including water-saving plumbing fixtures, automated climate controls, Energy Star rated appliances and light fixtures, and super-efficient windows.

“Our design goals were to create a functional, efficient and fully accessible group home that would employ as many green construction principles as possible,” explained Laurie Frankel, president of The Frankel Organization. “Not only does it serve as a model for green living in a group home setting today – it also provides the opportunity to incorporate technologies like solar and wind power in the future.”

Among the many sustainable and energy-efficient features that may not be immediately apparent, the home includes a **geothermal heating and cooling system** for ultra-low energy costs; high-performance cellulose insulation; water-conserving landscaping that resists drought and requires less water; recycled drywall and joint tape; and environmentally-responsible bamboo flooring and window treatments. Green products were utilized wherever possible – from recycled and recyclable building products, to locally produced and sourced materials that saved fuel and carbon emissions during transportation.

“We’re pleased to have been able to assist JARC in their important mission of serving people with disabilities, and conscious choice to help lessen our environmental footprint on our neighborhoods, our communities and our world,” commented Frankel. “Implementing green initiatives in the construction of The Nusbaum Home, will lessen energy usage, fuel and water consumption and waste, resulting in savings that will benefit JARC and the environment.”

The Frankel Organization worked closely with JARC to make sensible, sustainable choices while remaining within a tight budget – most of which was raised through private donations and grants.

Another important consideration was that the home be attractive and fit in with the surrounding architecture of the existing neighborhood.

“None of the sustainable or accessible elements of the home are apparent to passers-by,” noted Mark Frick, a Frankel Organization partner. “You would never know it was a green or group home.”

As a certified Green Built Michigan builder, The Frankel Organization offers a wide variety of energy-conserving, earth friendly improvements to its clients. The true talent, Frankel admits, is in building an eco-smart home that doesn’t sacrifice artistry.

“Many people feel they can’t afford to be environmentally responsible when it comes to building or renovating a home,” commented Frankel. “But with our help – as we’ve demonstrated in The Nusbaum Home – you can build a green home that looks and functions beautifully while making great fiscal sense.”

For More Information

The Frankel Organization of West Bloomfield, Michigan is one of the region’s leading custom homebuilders, with more than 170 years of combined experience with The Herman Frankel Organization. As a **Lead Certified Renovator** and **Green Built Michigan builder**, The Frankel Organization designs, builds and renovates distinctive residences that reflect both the passions of its owners and a dedication to preserving the environment. For more information, visit www.frankelhomes.com.

Based in Farmington Hills, Michigan, JARC is a nonprofit, nonsectarian agency dedicated to enabling people with disabilities to live full, dignified lives in the community, and to providing support and advocacy for their families. For more information, visit www.JARC.org.

Established in 1895, the Engineering Society of Detroit promotes and celebrates excellence and innovation in the engineering, scientific and allied professions. The Construction and Design Awards are among the premier recognitions awarded to members of the construction industry and their projects – recognizing outstanding team achievements and use of technology. For more information, visit www.esd.org.



The Frankel Organization of West Bloomfield Michigan received an ESD Design and Construction Award from the Engineering Society of Detroit during their annual awards banquet on June 23, 2010. The award recognized The Frankel Organization’s construction of the nation’s first green, barrier-free group home for JARC, a Farmington Hills, Michigan non-profit agency serving the needs of the developmentally disabled and their families. Pictured from left to right: William Russo, President, Engineering Society of Detroit; Rick Lowenstein, Chief Executive Officer, JARC; Laurie Frankel, Partner, The Frankel Organization; Mark Frick, Partner, The Frankel Organization; Tom Lyon, Architect, The Frankel Organization; and Robert Stevenson, Chairman, Engineering Society of Detroit.