



Brockett- Anderson

Year Built: 2004
 Home Size: 2700 sq.ft.
 Contractors:
 Jim Logan/Bryan Bowen Architects (see ad on page 23)
 Namaste Solar (see ad on page 43)
 Wonderland Hill Development Company
 Industrial Solar Technology
 Lightly Treading

Home sponsored by:

bryan bowen architects, p.c.

Cohousing for Sustainable Living

by Aaron Brockett & Cherry Rose Anderson

We are fortunate to live in a new house that was designed with many “green” features and options from the start. In fact, the houses in our development were given a 5-star + energy rating from Energy Star – the highest rating available. To this, we’ve been able to add some of our own efficiency-minded measures.

One of the best measures of sustainability in our household, however, comes from something we don’t have: a second car. An active family of four, we are able to manage happily with a single compact sedan. Two things make this possible: our community and our commitment to living locally.

The Holiday neighborhood was designed and built as a “new urbanist” neighborhood. It offers quiet, walkable streets that allow us to walk or bike easily to coffee shops, restaurants, the dry cleaner, the bank, the bike shop, even the car repair shop. Our office is just across the street from our house. We have a plot in the community garden a block from home. A neighborhood park is under development two blocks from our house.

We live in a cohousing community named Wild Sage Cohousing within Holiday. One of the strengths of cohousing is the ability to share resources, which saves money and reduces waste. For instance, Wild Sage offers a shared community green and many shared play areas for the children, eliminating the need for large private yards (and all of the associated maintenance!). We are also able to do some informal car sharing among our members, so that we have access to a pickup truck and a minivan for those times that our sedan just can’t handle the job. Resource sharing at Wild

Sage runs the gamut from the large (a community-owned hot tub) to the small (our monthly give-away table that facilitates the re-use of all sorts of odds and ends).

Although we can meet many of our needs within a ten-minute walk home, there from are of course times that we need to go further afield. Our neighborhood HOA provides Eco-Passes to all residents, and our location is convenient to two bus lines, including the high-frequency Skip that stops at two excellent neighborhood-focused shopping centers.

Our commitment to living locally means that we tend to look first for what is available around us. For instance, our son goes to a preschool that is a 10-minute bike ride from our house. He takes martial arts classes at a dojo that is within walking distance. We do well over half of our grocery shopping at the small, independent grocery store that is an easy bike ride from our house. These conscious decisions enable us to run most of our errands on foot, bike, or bus.



Aaron Brockett and Cherry-Rose Anderson

ENERGY FEATURES

- Passive solar design with tuned, low-e windows
- 2.2 kW grid-tied photovoltaic system
- A high-efficiency, solar-assisted hot water heater (shared among seven households)
- 3-zone radiant floor heating (utilizing the same shared hot water system)
- Evaporative cooling
- Blown cellulose insulation
- Double-insulated cellular window shades
- Daylighting, CFLs & Energy Star appliances
- Windsorce

GREEN FEATURES

- Carpet made from recycled plastic
- Decking made from recycled plastic
- Advanced framing techniques
- Engineered lumber
- Fiber-cement exterior siding
- Low VOC paint

WATER FEATURES

- Xeriscape
- Bio-swales for stormwater
- Drip irrigation
- Low-flow toilets, showerheads, and fixtures

RE-USE/SALVAGE FEATURES

- Reclaimed-brick patio
- Salvaged hardscape and sod
- Construction waste recycling