



Contact:
Noah Grunberg
Noble Home, LLC
P.O. Box 441516
West Somerville, MA 02144-1516
617-629-HOME (4663)
www.Noble-Home.net

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Noble Home: A Breath of Fresh Air for the Green, Affordable Home Somerville, MA-

Noble Home, LLC, a new company in the prefab housing industry, is merging two current and popular trends: affordability and environmentally friendliness. Until now, these two trends have been incompatible in the recent construction market.

Noble Home designs and sells kit houses to builders, developers, and owners alike with the notion that simple, error-free construction saves resources, time, and money for the end user. Additionally, with the rise of the green building market, Noble Home aims to be the leader in providing these affordable kits with environmentally safe, non-toxic materials and superior energy efficiency. Noble Home can be designed as a passive solar home and can include other alternative energy technologies. Noble Home kits include all the materials needed to build and finish a house shell with interior walls, and includes complete construction drawings for each customized home.

Kit homes, popularized in the early 20th century through Aladdin Homes and Sears & Roebuck, were early experiments in manufactured housing. Since then, there has been increasing interest in prefab building, from the more affordable, traditionally designed modular housing to the more stylized, modern adaptations which are still typically financially out of reach for many homebuyers.

The Noble Home was created by experienced architectural designers and builders at JASONOAH design-build (see www.JASONOAH.com). JASONOAH partners, Noah Grunberg and Jason Silverman met while apprentices at Taliesin, the school and office created by the late American architect Frank Lloyd Wright, where they learned the basics of natural architecture.

Through many years custom designing and building natural houses, Silverman and Grunberg found more and more people unable to afford to build even a small quality home for their family, so spent years researching various ways to meet this noble goal. The kit home concept is the ideal solution to affordable housing, due to the reduction of highly skilled labor and the great possibility of the homeowner investing their own labor. Saving labor costs then enables the use of higher quality materials.

The Noble Home kit does not include any off-gassing engineered materials such as plywood or OSB. The structural wall panels are manufactured from light weight steel instead of wood studs. All of the wood used is locally grown timber and exposed in the home, and interior walls are compressed straw panels, further reducing the material and labor required in conventional stud construction. Glass doors are custom built for Noble Home to maximize solar gain and views.

In a recent feature article on Treehugger.com, Lloyd Alter writes “These guys learned their lessons well at Taliesin, and have produced kits with the best of mid-century modern sensibilities from clean, logical plans, brought up to date with green materials and sold at reasonable prices.”