

News Release

Rhode Island Remodeler First Certified Green Professional in State

CUMBERLAND, R.I. (March 17, 2008): Joseph Cracco of Modern Yankee Builders, a Rhode Island residential design/build remodeling firm, has become the first Certified Green Professional (CGP) in Rhode Island. Cracco earned his certification this month upon completion of a curriculum offered by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB).

The CGP course focuses on green home building and remodeling techniques to support water conservation, improved indoor air quality, sustainability and durability of the finished product as well as resource-efficient building and remodeling practices. The course encourages builders and remodelers to reduce the environmental impact of projects by incorporating appropriate green practices into their work. “I believe that most remodelers and builders are overwhelmed by the multitude of information available and they figure that ‘being green’ will be too difficult, so why even try,” Cracco explains. “I feel differently. I believe that it’s all about trying. Trying to improve...not to be perfect, or to be the greenest... but to be green-er. For us, ‘green’ is a philosophy and an attitude. It’s true that some projects can arguably be called ‘greener’ than others, but I think that it’s more important that we start somewhere rather than not starting at all.”

Even prior to the CGP certification, Modern Yankee Builders has been incorporating green building practices into the company’s projects. “We make a tremendous effort to develop a plan for completing our projects in the most ecologically and environmentally responsible manner we can without adding to the cost of the project,” states Cracco. “In some cases, simply choosing one product or vendor over another helps achieve that goal. In other cases, our goal is advanced through a change in our construction methods. Most often, it’s a combination of the two. Of course, it all starts with caring and taking the time to do the research necessary to understand which products and techniques will help.” Modern Yankee Builders includes jobsite waste recycling in their projects, uses sustainably grown and harvested lumber and recycled content materials whenever possible and provides many other “green” options for clients who wish to support environmentally-responsible remodeling.

With the Environmental Protection Agency estimating that buildings in the U.S. account for 39 percent of total energy use, 12 percent of the total water consumption, 68 percent of total electricity consumption, and 38 percent of the carbon dioxide emissions, many environmentally-responsible homeowners are making green remodeling a priority. Aside from personal satisfaction, clients who ‘remodel green’ are more likely to have lower utility bills, reduced maintenance and repair costs, increased home value and a greater level of comfort in the remodeled spaces. “It is clear from all of the interest in personal environmental impact that we will see more and more homeowners who are interested in a ‘green remodel’,” notes Cracco. “We are looking forward to helping those people make a difference within their own homes.”