

STREAMLINE DESIGN BRINGS GREEN FOCUS TO HOME BUILDING

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Kevin Simoes of Streamline Design Ltd. in Abbotsford says the company has an entirely green approach to home building and design.

With attitudes constantly switching towards reducing carbon footprints and making environmentally friendly choices, an Abbotsford company is hoping people will take that same approach closer to home.

While specializing in the design of log and timber homes, Abbotsford's Streamline Design Ltd. has an entirely green focus in its approach to home building and design. Simoes says quite often his clients have a little piece of land tucked away and want to build their retirement dream home. Others are looking for a vacation retreat, while some want his designs as their principal residence. What they all have in common, says Simoes, is their desire for a more sustainable lifestyle. "Log homes are considered to be a renewable resource and environmentally friendly, so a lot of our clients come to us with lots of questions about going green or green building products." From client curiosity, Streamline Enterprises Ltd. was born. "Originally we were thinking that we would spec some of these products for our clients to try and assist," explains Simoes. "And then we realized the potential and started a whole new company so that we could become a consolidated source for all their green building needs."

Without an explanation from company principal Kevin Simoes, the interior of the company's office on Montrose Avenue can look somewhat bizarre.

For one, vegetation is growing on a patch of material that Simoes explains can be installed on roofs to provide a green alternative to traditional materials.

One quick turn of the head later, and it visitor is confronted by an array of plants that incorporate an entire wall.

These "living walls and green roofs" are just two of the unusual elements that are featured by Streamline, who are certified installers of ELT Green Roof and Living Wall systems.

In addition to their aesthetic benefits, Green Roofs and Living Walls significantly reduce the heating and cooling costs of a building, reduce the urban heat island effect, increase the life span of a building envelope, reduce stormwater run-off, filter pollutants and carbon from the air, and allow for the increased biodiversity of plants, animals and insects in the area.

While they have a limited number of projects locally, Simoes said they are designing numerous properties in other parts of B.C. and across the world in countries including Denmark, Switzerland, Russia and the U.S.

"We are still a little bit ahead of our time but it's good to be at the cusp." That being said, he can only see good things with people "wanting to go green."

It means that for the future, Simoes foresees a potential expansion to his Abbotsford office and possible growth into other communities.

Some of the products that Streamline features - including recycled glass tiles, insulation made from denim jeans, wool carpet, FSC certified wood, cork and bamboo flooring.

"It's all been very positive and we are getting a lot of feedback." said Simoes. "We are constantly expanding and getting additional green building products... and we are trying to help with education and awareness."

Simoes' only negative so far is that his company is not working on more projects closer to Abbotsford. It is a situation he hopes will change in the future.

"I would like to see more local projects so we can go and visit them and enjoy the end product," he said. "I certainly think there's a market for it."

LiveSmart Community Heroes

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