

NEW PANEL HOMES INC.

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Green Building System on Display

Punta Gorda, Fla. -- The public is invited to observe a high-tech green building under construction during a "Tech Day" open house Feb. 23 in Peace River Shores in Punta Gorda.

The 600-square-foot green-certified home is being built with structural insulated panels (SIPs) manufactured by New Panel Homes, Inc. of Englewood. The prefabricated panel system allows for a building shell to be completed in as little as three days by a crew of four people. The resulting buildings are as strong as traditionally built homes, affording protection from hurricane-force winds while offering superior energy efficiency.

Guests at the Tech Day open house will watch a crew from New Panel Homes erecting wall panels for the cottage-style home under construction for homeowner Hans Boortman at 447 Riverview Drive. The open house hours are 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Brian C. Bishop, the president and founder of New Panel Homes, will be on hand to explain the panelized construction system and its role in green building.

"If you have never seen a panelized building go up, you are in for a treat," Bishop said. "You will see just how fast and easy this system is. When you consider the strength and energy efficiency of the completed building, we think we have a pretty compelling story."

The Boortman home, designed by architect Robert Andrys, AIA, of Alva, Fla., is a prototype design that could be rapidly deployed in disaster areas, such as Haiti. The building is designed to "grow" into a more substantial home with the addition of various pre-designed modules when budget or circumstances permit. In a time of concern over Chinese drywall, it is worth noting that this home uses no drywall. The cement-fiber panel surfaces are ready to finish, inside and out.

Tech Day is designed to appeal to all those with an interest in green construction, including architects, builders, real estate agents, homeowners, students, journalists and government officials.

To reach the Boortman home site, take U.S. 17 to Peace River Shores Boulevard. Go west to the end of Peace River Shores Boulevard and turn left. Proceed south to Riverview Drive. Turn left on to Riverview Drive. The home site is on the right.

Brian C. Bishop is a pioneer of SIP construction in Florida. He has been building panelized homes since 1999, when he founded Home Front, Inc. in Venice, Fla., to produce affordable, energy-efficient panelized homes.



This Katrina Cottage, designed by Andrés Duany and built in five days by Brian C. Bishop and Associates, is similar to the house that will be built in Peace River Shores.