

Jamie Wolf Design Builds Just the Right House for High Performance & Affordability



The 74 million strong Boomer generation (age 52-74) continues to establish new trends and change the marketplace.

Connecticut Boomers are embracing the net-zero-energy movement and investing in extremely energy efficient homes as part of their retirement plans.

UCONN professors, Paul and Louise Lewis, are participants in this year's Zero Energy Challenge (ZEC), and their motivations came down to four wish list items for their new home:

- ▶ really comfortable
- ▶ right-sized for their current lifestyle and for future aging in place
- ▶ self-sustaining and efficient
- ▶ affordable

And that's exactly what Jamie Wolf of Wolfworks, Inc. designed and built for them.

Inspired by New England farmhouses the 1,600 SF three bedroom home makes the most of every space simply and smartly.

Large windows open to rural views and do double duty by providing free solar heat. There's a master suite on the first floor and the south facing upstairs bedroom serves as a home office for the two biology professor owners.

Located in Mansfield, within walking distance to UConn's main campus, the home features an open concept floor plan, triple glazed European windows, a solar photovoltaic system, extra insulation on every surface and state of the art HVAC systems.

The result: a - 3 Net Zero Energy Passive House designed home. The impressive - 3 HERS rating means this high performance home produces more energy than it uses.

Affordability - Compared to a code built home, it will save the homeowners over \$4,000 in annual energy cost and a capitalized annual savings of over \$160,000.

Affordability of net-zero-energy homes is a significant draw for those approaching or at retirement age and on a fixed income. Another attraction is that net-zero-energy homes also meet several of

the NAHB Aging-In Place Recommendations, such as:

- ▶ Low-maintenance, durable exterior
- ▶ Main living on a single story, including full bath
- ▶ Plenty of windows for natural light
- ▶ Safe electric cook tops (The Lewis' home features an induction stove that's cool to the touch.)
- ▶ Easy-to-read, programmable thermostats
- ▶ Energy-efficient HVACs with air filtration ventilation systems

"The Connecticut Zero Energy Challenge has evolved from exploration to finessing the zero-energy home building process and pushing the envelope with new energy-efficient designs and technologies," said Enoch Lenge, Eversource Energy Efficiency Supervisor. "As a result, these super-efficient homes have become a showcase for future builders and homeowners. They also demonstrate that high-efficiency homes can fit any budget and be the norm with significant rewards in comfort, long-term sustainability and affordability." ■