



CYPRESS

Adds Beauty and Environmental-Efficiency to *The New American Home 2008*

The durability of cypress has always made it a popular choice for home exteriors, but its beauty and elegance are making it a trendy choice for interiors, too. That's why it's no surprise that cypress was a prominent feature in *The New American Home 2008*, the official showcase home of the 2008 International Builders Show. In fact, cypress was just one of the environmentally friendly materials used in the construction of the home, which annually highlights the very latest advances in home technology and design.

While green building was certainly a priority for the project, the team behind *The New American Home 2008* also wanted it to depart from the traditional Mediterranean-style homes that are

A pinwheeled cypress ceiling enhances the homes main gathering point.

common to Florida. As Charlie Robertson, one of the builders for the project and president of Robertson Homes in Orlando, explained, "When we met with the designers, we knew we wanted an old-style plantation home that paid homage to homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina."

The result is a Gulf-style home reminiscent of classic New Orleans, where residences historically featured lots of native cypress. Among its highlights is a sprawling 2,950 square-foot loggia complete with open arches, an outdoor kitchen and seating area and a landscaped pool and spa. Most of

the area dwells beneath an expansive outdoor ceiling milled entirely from locally harvested cypress.

Cypress is integral to the interior design of the home as well. A pinwheeled cypress ceiling is the focal point of the home's primary gathering point, a large leisure room, while a panelled cypress ceiling lends sophistication and stature to a comfortable, highly functional home office.

In addition to its distinctive design, *The New American Home 2008* is also notable for being the first residence in the country to be certified under the new National



Native cypress provides a soothing atmosphere in the home office.



Locally harvested cypress adds character to the outdoor kitchen's ceiling.

Association of Home Builder's (NAHB) National Green Building Program, achieving gold-level status for its extensive use of local resources, energy efficiency and innovative design. As a local building product, cypress was a helpful factor in the certification process, according to Robertson. "Besides the fact that we like cypress, we received credit for Green Building certification because it was milled locally," he explained.

Sponsored by the NAHB and co-sponsored by *Builder* magazine and The National Council of the Housing Industry (NCHI), the *New American Home* annually features

innovative building materials, construction techniques and appliances to inspire the development of attractive, energy-efficient homes. *The New American Home* 2008, a 6,725-square-foot residence located in the Water's Edge section of Lake Nona, Florida, played host to more than 5,000 visitors during the 2008 International Builders Show.

To learn more about cypress and the exceptional value, beauty and sustainability it can bring to a new or remodeled home, visit www.cypressinfo.org, a service of the Southern Cypress Manufacturers Association.



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Photos courtesy of James Wilson.