

■ PRODUCT *Spotlight*

Southern Cypress

Showcase cypress in “green remodels”

DISTRIBUTORS OF southern cypress may specialize in a species known for providing warmth and elegance since Biblical times, yet their latest sales tool is strictly modern day: highlighting cypress as part of a “green remodel.”

A prime example is the enviro-friendly makeover of a 1970s ranch-style house located adjacent to Florida’s Ocala National Forest. Named Terra Nova, the 3,000-sq. ft. structure was transformed into an energy-efficient and ecologically friendly home—with help from the Southern Cypress Manufacturers Association and other sponsors.

“The cypress entranceway gives the project its ‘wow’ factor,” said Dr. Anna Marie, owner of the home and host of a syndicated TV show on healthy living. Both the front and rear gables are clad in locally sourced cypress, due to its durability and natural resistance to rot and decay.

The “Greenovation of Terra Verde” project demonstrates a full range of



CYPRESS GABLES bring long-lasting beauty and superior durability to recent green remodel.



Photos by Terra Verde Team

GREEN RENOVATION shows off cypress gables and other enviro-friendly building products.

green building products and technologies that are readily available and affordable for remodeling an existing house. More details are available at www.terraverdetv.com.

“The goal of this renovation is to educate homeowners that you don’t have to build a brand new home in order for it to be green,” said Dr. Anna Marie. “From updating the bathroom and kitchen, to new paint, updated fixtures, and landscaping, we show how and why it should be done.”

Besides providing long-lasting beauty, cypress can also help reduce a project’s carbon footprint. Like all woods, cypress naturally sequesters carbon throughout its lifetime. In addition, cypress has a naturally occurring preservative that protects the wood from insects, decay, and other natural threats. It’s an ideal choice for interior

applications such as flooring, moulding and millwork, or exterior applications, including siding, fencing, shutters, and shingles.

Additional information is included in SCMA’s latest report: *Cypress: American, Sustainable, Carbon-Neutral*. “Our goal is to spread the word on one of America’s most beautiful and sustainable resources,” said Nancy Tuck, SCMA’s president and v.p. of finance at Gates Custom Milling, Gatesville, N.C.

“We read headlines regarding carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases contributing to global climate change, and others concerning sustainability issues with wood,” she said. “This report provides architects and homeowners with information about cypress’ durability and versatility that they may not know.”