

HOME

SPRING 2015

FURNITURE *FASHION'S* HIGH POINT

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Easy, elegant ideas
for every room

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New American Homes
inspire smart DIY projects

It's a custom-designed home built for the "wow" factor.

And this year, it's in Vegas, baby.

Since 1984, the National Association of Home Builders has constructed America's premier show home, an over-the-top, »

BY DEBI PITTMAN WILKEY

New American Home 2015
This year's model, located in Las Vegas, features the latest in smart technology.



state-of-the-art, energy-efficient real-world laboratory where tech-savvy homeowners, designers and builders peek into the future.

The custom-designed New American Home showcases the latest products and demonstrates technical advances in home building and design techniques. A new house is unveiled every year during the National Association of Home Builders' annual International Builder Show, which took place this year in January in Las Vegas.

The high-profile event attracts thousands of people from all over the world. These forward-thinking designers and builders troop through the model dream home, taking away the brightest ideas and tips to use in their own projects back home.

"The purpose of the home is for people to seek great ideas or things they can use, whether they're designing or building a new home, or just looking for ways to improve their current home," says Tyler Jones, owner of the Las Vegas-based Blue Heron Properties construction company and head of the team of architects, builders and interior designers who created this

The New American Home 2015 has an asking price of \$2.8 million.

year's show home.

With a contemporary desert design, the home taps into a growing trend to better connect people to their devices. "This year it's specifically designed to demonstrate the capabilities of an integrated home automation system," says Tucker Bernard, director of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and the New American Home project.

The home has innovations that satisfy increasingly busy people who want to stay connected to their homes via smartphones or laptops while on the road or in the office. And it has a long list of cutting-edge features that appeal to the luxury and environmentally conscious home buyer.

For instance, the appliances and construction materials make use of energy-efficient technologies. These include custom desert water-saving landscaping, low-E windows (proven to reduce energy consumption), tankless water heaters, energy-efficient LED lighting and net-zero appliances. While these measures save energy, solar panels on the property generate power. In fact, the home qualifies as a net-zero energy house,

meaning that the amount of energy used by the home equals the amount of energy created on the property.

"Our goal is to always take it to the next level, and this year's home certainly achieved that once again, not only with its open flow design for the indoor/outdoor desert lifestyle, but also to the advance technology for managing your home from your phone," says Bernard.

A Washington-based trade association, the NAHB represents more than 200,000 members. A committee of architects and builders selects the concept, architecture and interior design of each New American Home.

"These homes are about reflecting a certain lifestyle, and we want to make sure everything in the home is leading-edge," says Bernard, adding that everything on display is readily available in the marketplace.

This year's show home is nestled in the gated Sky Terrace community in the Henderson, Nev., foothills, just minutes from the sparkling Vegas strip. Overlooking the Las Vegas valley, the home is expected to achieve the highest level of certification — emerald — from the National Green Building Standard. The stringent certification process is administered by the NAHB Research Center.

The home has an asking price of \$2.8 million, but that gets buyers 5,891 square feet and two stories of living space, including an indoor/outdoor kitchen »



These rooms and rooftop sky deck boast stunning views of the Las Vegas skyline.



PREVIOUS PAGE, ABOVE: BLUE HERON PROPERTIES

BLUE HERON PROPERTIES