

BUSINESS PROFILE

Courtyard Construction

Greg Washington is a high quality builder and is the first Certified Green Professional by the National Association of Home Builders located in North Idaho.

Although he has been working in construction industry for many years, he established Courtyard Construction, Inc. in 2003 and has been building homes throughout North Idaho since then.

"I've wanted to build since I was 14...that year I had a summer job picking rocks at a job site," he said. "I didn't care for it much, but I did notice the general contractor and thought that looked like something I could really enjoy."

Washington moved to Coeur d'Alene from Missoula, MT in 1992 and began working for Louisiana-Pacific as a manufacturer's representative for its building materials. He built his own custom home in 1999, and then a few more here and there, until, in 2003, he decided to do this full-time.

Since then, Courtyard Construction has created elegant homes across the region, including Radiant Lake in Rathdrum, The Landings at Waterford, Bentwood Park in Coeur d'Alene and numerous other custom locations throughout Kootenai County.

"I've always enjoyed building," Washington said. "It's a challenging profession and I love it!"

It's not just his construction abilities that he thinks are valuable.

"Some of my best skills are listening and helping clients understand the process," he said. "Some builders tend to use a lot of jargon, and clients may not always understand it and may not ask. What I try to do is explain everything in terms most folks can grasp."

For a few years, Courtyard focused more on building custom spec homes, which Washington said



was easier because he could make all the decisions on the spot...But he missed working with clients.

These days, he wants to share that Courtyard Construction can help with new home needs or renovations, especially if you're interested in going Green.

His interest in Green building started while brushing his teeth two years ago. His third-grade daughter, sharing the lessons of water conservation from her teacher, asked him to turn the water off while brushing.

"She pretty much chastised me for wasting water," Washington said. "I knew a little about recycling and conservation, but never made it a part of my life before."

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This lesson of cutting back on wastefulness was reinforced when he and his wife visited Ethiopia a year later to adopt two little girls.

"We saw what it means to not have anything, even basic needs...it really reminded us that we can be better stewards and grateful for what we do have," Washington said.

He went on to enroll in the Certified Green Professional certification program offered by the National Association of Home Builders, which included 24 hours of classroom training and exams. The same program will be offering a Master Green Builder certification, which he intends on pursuing.

These days, a builder can't afford not to go Green or at least understand what it means— clients are asking for this, and lately, the energy-efficient homes are developing a lot of interest.

"Builders should respond to this push for more Green," he said. "It creates a healthier living environment, makes things more efficient, and reduces your energy costs...How can you go wrong?"

People who want to know more about Green, or at least energy-saving methods, can contact him. Along with new construction, Tenant Improvement work, and light commercial, Courtyard is happy to help with remodels or retro-fits.

For more information, please visit www.courtyardinc.com or www.thatgreenbuilder.com. You may also reach him at (208) 704-4047 or PO Box 2080, Hayden, ID 83835.



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