



Steward Lade of Redding won a Home Builders Association of Connecticut award for “Outstanding Green, Energy-Efficient Custom Home” for this home in Weston. It was one of two awards he won.

## Timberdale receives two HOBIs

The Homebuilders Association of Connecticut has awarded Timberdale Homes two HOBIs awards — one for a new home built in Weston and a second for a remodeled home in Ridgefield. Timberdale, an award-winning builder of new and renovated homes, is owned by Stewart Lade of Redding.

The Weston home received an award for Outstanding Green, Energy-Efficient Custom Home. The 4,700-square-foot home is a modern interpretation of a classic New England barn featuring exposed Douglas fir beams and steel hardware. The home was designed by Bensonwood Homes of Walpole, N.H., and incorporates

many of Bensonwood’s innovative high-performance building shell components. Timberdale is the exclusive representative for Bensonwood in western Connecticut.

The EnergyStar-certified Weston home is owned by Rob and Marci Linke. “Rob is an engineer and he and Marci were attracted to the Bensonwood building system both for its state-of-the art, energy-efficient engineering and for Bensonwood’s ability to accommodate their unique custom home design requirements,” said Mr. Lade.

When a client decides to build a Bensonwood home, the Bensonwood team provides the design, engineering and off-site fabrication of all building shell com-

ponents. Timberdale is the overall project manager and handles all of the local on-site construction services required to complete the project, including the finish carpentry and detailing.

The building shell is constructed using panels that are fabricated at Bensonwood’s New Hampshire facility. The fully insulated and gasketed panels are made using very accurate computer and machine tool fabrication and controlled production methods resulting in components that are more precisely assembled and durable than site-built assemblies.

“Virtually all long-term problems with residential construction emanate from poor

building shell construction — we eliminate those potential problems through very rigorous engineering and quality controls. The Bensonwood system creates an incredibly tight, energy efficient and moisture proof building shell. The panels are fabricated off-site while we are completing the local site and foundation work. The panels are then shipped to the site and the building shell is erected and ‘dry’ in two weeks, saving a considerable amount time,” Mr. Lade said.

The Weston house incorporates many energy-efficiency measures beyond the tight, super-insulated building shell. North-facing windows and doors are all triple-pane and spectrally selected for optimum seasonal performance. The roof is a durable, light-colored metal that reflects heat in the summer, reducing the cooling load on the house. The building’s eave design provides shading in the summer and permits sunlight to penetrate into the house in the winter — providing passive solar heat gain.

“Even the interior paint incorporates a ceramic additive that reflects heat,” said Mr. Lade.

Describing the unique HVAC system, Mr. Lade said, “The principal heating source is two Tulikivi masonry heaters imported from Finland. Tulikivis are super efficient wood-burning heaters constructed of soapstone — a natural material that has superior heat retention and radiation properties. The larg-



**Stewart Lade**

est Tulikivi weighs over 12,000 pounds and is a stunning visual centerpiece in the house. It is capable of heating the house with a single charge of wood each day. The house also has a hybrid back-up heating system comprised of air-to-air heat pumps and a high efficiency LP boiler. When the temperature is above 35 degrees, the heat pumps do the work — that’s when they are most efficient. Below 35 degrees the high-efficiency LP boiler takes over.”

Timberdale also won a HOBI for “Best Not So Big House Remodel” for the whole-house renovation of a home in Ridgefield. The award celebrates the home design and building principles described in Sarah Susanka’s groundbreak-

ing book *The Not So Big House*. The book advances the idea that quality of space is more important than quantity of space, with emphasis on interior floor-plan flow, comfort and finish detail.

“The 1,000-square-foot residence includes finish details that you would typically see in some of the largest and most expensive homes in Fairfield County,” said Mr. Lade. “Of particular note is a set of mahogany furnishings that Timberdale designed and fabricated in our Bethel shop. We built a large mahogany settee and trestle table, a matching fireplace surround, a pair of entry benches and a matching bedroom set including bed, bureau and night tables. The matching mahogany furnishings are eye-catching and create a unifying theme.”

The small house is EnergyStar certified and is heated and cooled with a ground source heat pump system.

Mr. Lade said, “We are very pleased to win these two awards. The new normal in homebuilding is moving toward smaller, green, energy efficient, high-performance homes. These awards are testimony to Timberdale’s ability to build and remodel homes that are in tune with today’s homeowner needs.”

For more information on the award-winning homes or Timberdale, go to Timberdale’s Web site at [www.timberdale-homes.com](http://www.timberdale-homes.com) or call 203-791-1062.