



## WRIGHT BUILDERS, INC. AND THE LIVING BUILDING CHALLENGE (LBC)

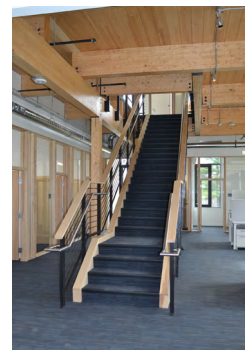
The Challenge aims to transform how we think about every aspect of design and construction as an opportunity to positively impact the greater community of life and the cultural fabric of our human communities. At Wright Builders we believe that embracing this challenge makes us uniquely suited to accomplish other projects more sustainably. Over the last twenty years, green building has grown to become the most important and progressive trend in the building industry, a trend Wright Builders has been actively involved in and committed to since our first solar projects in 1976!

Wright Builders' ongoing LBC projects, the recently completed R. W. Kern Center at Hampshire College and The Hitchcock Center for the Environment, have brought to light, in a very big way, the importance of the relationship between the acts of design, sourcing, construction and interiors of any structure from a tiny house, to a new school, to a new home, to a new work place. We are now asking ourselves... where did that 2 x 4 come from; who made the plumbing and electrical parts and were their work conditions conducive to good health; did they have to breathe noxious fumes during fabrication?

Both projects represent a high bar of collaboration with architects, suppliers, trade vendors, manufacturers, town officials, and owners. As we near completion, this two-project achievement makes Wright Builders a first worldwide! In addition to these two buildings, along with projects in

Williamstown, Jamaica Plain, Whately, MA and Rhinebeck, New York, make our area a new cultural tourism destination for sustainable practices, research and the pure enjoyment of experiencing a transformative built environment.

*Continued on the next page...*



R.W. Kern Center



# WHY DO ALL THIS?

Sustainable building practices, at any and all levels of intensity, provide a holistic concept for bettering the workplace and the lived-in environments. These practices, in renovation and new construction, are an effort to amplify the positive effects of “smart” materials, systems and practice choices throughout the entire life cycle of a building.

While there are many different definitions of green building, it is generally accepted that green building includes planning, design, construction, and operations of buildings with several central, foremost considerations: energy use, water use, indoor environmental quality, material selection, and the building’s effects on its site and on the planet over time.

Our sustainable building projects, in collaboration with designers and architects, incorporate environmentally preferable practices for design, construction, operations, maintenance, waste management, energy sourcing and water usage. The goals of these projects include:

- Halt and reverse contributions to climate change
- Enhance human health and wellbeing through the whole cycle of product manufacturing, installation, usage, reuse and disposal
- Protect and restore water resources
- Protect biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Promote sustainable and regenerative resource cycles
- Build a greener economy
- Enhance community, social equity, environmental justice, and quality of life

Wright Builders is committed to building as green as possible, with our **Village Hill Northampton** homes as a unique example of this commitment. With 45 homes (townhomes, single family and single floor flats) currently ENERGY STAR and LEED for Homes Certified, and 12 more in construction, we have developed and built the only LEED certified mixed neighborhood in Massachusetts.



The Hitchcock Center for the Environment

Construction on our first home aspiring to LEED PLATINUM is underway at Village Hill Northampton. LEED Platinum takes the high performance, sustainably built goals to another level. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design is a voluntary building rating system that provides a way for all buildings claiming to be sustainable to be graded on a common scale. LEED-certified buildings are resource efficient. They use less water and energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As an added bonus, they save money on heating, cooling and maintenance.

To accomplish LEED platinum certification, the building must achieve a minimum set number of performance points, through performance in 8 key areas of human and environmental health. Examples of these key areas are:

- Water efficiency
- Energy and atmosphere
- Materials and resources

The results of achieving these goals translates into a cleaner, safer, more comfortable living and working environment that has less of an overall impact on the planet. At Wright Builders we believe that third party professional verification, such as LEED which is the worldwide benchmark system, is the path to greater transparency, less waste, and a safe and healthy planet. For more on LEED certification visit [www.usgbc.org/leed](http://www.usgbc.org/leed).

## NESEA PRO TOUR

R.W. Kern Center and The Hitchcock Center for the Environment Revisited | August 5th 2016, 1pm – 5 pm

NESEA’s Pro Tours that occur throughout the year offer half-day tours of high performance homes and businesses all over the Northeast, providing an opportunity for sustainable building professionals to get to see projects in progress with their own eyes, share their knowledge and learn from their colleagues.

Both Hampshire College’s R. W. Kern Center, (Bruner/Cott Architects) a multifunctional learning, teaching, admissions and exhibition space and the new Hitchcock Center for the Environment (designLAB Architects) will be featured again this year. Don’t miss seeing these buildings in action! ([nesea.org](http://nesea.org))



The Hitchcock Center for the Environment



R.W. Kern Center



The Hitchcock Center for the Environment



# RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS



**New Home in Amherst:** with subtle views of the Amherst hills, this high performance and beautiful home offers its happy family triple pane windows, double 2 x 4 R-36 wall system, fully insulated foundation and basement, and carefully detailed systems transition for minimization of air infiltration.



**In Montague:** A simple sustainable small house for music and privacy away from it all, utilizing an ICF wall system.



**New Home in Hawley:** New family focused high-performance home in Hawley offers exceptional comfort and views of the hills. HERS Rating of -25. Coldham & Hartman Architects



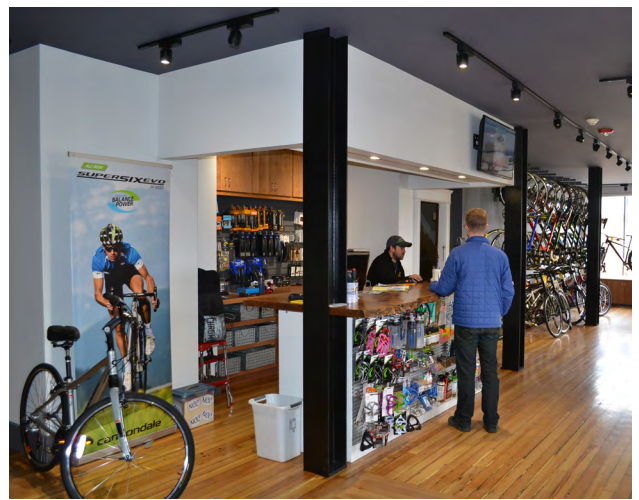
**River Valley Co-op, Northampton:** Congratulations to our Co-op friends and fellow member-owners (8300 strong!!) on the vision and success of this remarkable renovation and rebranding. More color, more light, new flow, expanded wine, bread and cheese...check it out! Douglas Architects



**The Upper Ridge at Village Hill Northampton:** LEED for Homes Certified and ENERGY STAR Greek Revival Townhomes, offering direct access to Beech Tree Park and open and airy floor plans for easy living. (All homes are sold)



**In Belchertown:** A timely 1200 sq. ft. addition that connects Grandmother with the family; offering well designed privacy and convenience and a second floor new en suite bathroom for the main bedroom.



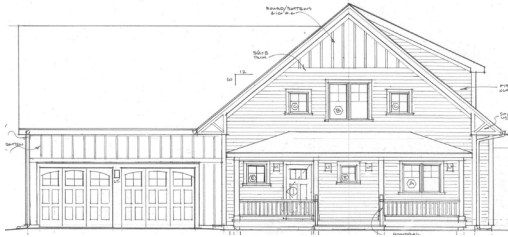
**Northampton Bicycle Renovations:** With great vision from the owner Gerard Paquin and his team, a new space was created that makes you want to buy a bicycle!



# NEW PROJECTS



**Over Garage Bonus Room at Emerson Way:** From just a garage to a 365 sq. ft. family bonus room accessed from the second floor hallway. Lots of light with new dormer and skylights.



**New Home at Village Hill Northampton:** This new home is slated for LEED Platinum and is designed to take advantage of its sloping location, woodsy and distant views, excellent solar exposure, with intimate outdoor patios and porches.



**New Home in Southern Vermont:** Snow, sun and comfort for this skiing and outdoor living family, all in a high performance sustainable package! Passive house inspired.



**Aging in Place:** Expanded 3rd floor master bedroom and new 3 story elevator makes this home completely accessible for its lifelong residents.

# WBI KEEPS LEARNING

In our continuing commitment to our staff's education and ongoing understanding and application of sustainable building technologies, 9 of us attended Building Energy 16, NESEA's annual Boston conference, and the Northeast's premier gathering for sustainable design, green building, and renewable energy professionals working together to advance the adoption of sustainable energy practices in the built environment. Mark took us all to No Name for some early evening fabulous fish on the waterfront in one of the nicest days this strange Spring has offered up!

In early May, three of us experienced the International Living Future Institute's Living Future Unconference in Seattle. Living Future is the forum for leading minds in the green building movement seeking solutions to the most daunting global issues of our time. Here out-of-the-ordinary learning and networking formats lend to the design strategies and cutting-edge technical information that Wright Builders can then apply in the field of sustainable construction.

## *Thank You River Valley Co-op!*

River Valley Co-op has selected Wright Builders to receive this year's Austin Miller Award! As we are aware of the remarkable work that Austin Miller did within the community, on affordable housing, and in particular in helping the Co-op fulfill its dream, we are so humbled and honored to, in some way, reflect his extraordinary commitment and leadership.

We are honored to be recognized as a business in the Pioneer Valley that supports and strengthens River Valley Co-op cooperative values and that embodies the cooperative principal Support for Community. This is an extraordinary offer of friendship and recognition of our values, our workmanship and attitudes, our community commitment and the project team and our company as a whole, and means the world to us.

Here's a little more about this year's award and ice cream social: <http://rivervalleymarket.coop>

**A note from Jonathan:** *As Mark continues his new and expanded role as President of Wright Builders, he will be looking at some of our new projects as well as fulfilling continued project management. Jonathan, in particular, and the rest of the project development team, is really enjoying this additional support from Mark as the Cheese at WBI.*

# UPDATES ON VILLAGE HILL: The Upper Ridge



## **FOR SALE: Elegant Single Floor, Accessible Condominiums**

Got a bit too much house, too much yard work, a yen to travel, the tug of children or grandchildren living elsewhere, yet a desire to live sustainably, comfortably within a lively community in Northampton? Walk to Smith and downtown? Community gardens right nearby? Hundreds of acres of gorgeous open space? **Now may be the time to look at the Flats at The Upper Ridge at Village Hill Northampton!**

On the West side of Village Hill Road, you'll find an elegant, 3 story, fully accessible condominium building, with 6 six one floor living homes, each with about 1588 sq. ft. of bright and open concept living space. Offering total comfort, ease of ownership, healthy and quiet living, and LEED for Homes certification make a path to a sustainable future. With 3 homes occupied, there are 3 more for you to choose from, all with private balconies and lower level elevator accessible garage and private storage. Starting at \$479,000. Contact your realtor or Goggins Real Estate for additional information of promotional programs!



Under construction now, is its sister building, on the East side of Village Hill Road, offering the same high performance homes with 2 or 3 bedrooms and 1588 sq. ft. of bright living space. Occupancy expected November/December 2016. Balconies, ground level patios, and covered canopy to adjacent garage structures. (2 homes under agreement) Homes starting at \$499,000. Contact your realtor or Goggins Real Estate for additional information of promotional programs!

## **Greek Revival Duplex:** Offering 2 and 3 bedrooms (facing Ford Crossing and Village Hill Road)

First floor master suite in the three-bedroom unit makes this unit especially versatile. Both homes have two bedrooms upstairs, with generous closet space and room sizes. Stunning innovative design by Kuhn Riddle Architects has created great interior spaces, easy access, and comfortable porches, along with private patios, a single garage and additional parking. With on-demand gas water heating and high efficiency heat and air-conditioning, with Energy Recovery Ventilation technology, gas cooking, these homes are designed to be ENERGY STAR and LEED for Homes Certified. Occupancy anticipated early 2017. Homes starting at \$389,000. Contact your realtor or Goggins Real Estate for additional information on promotional programs!



## **3 Single Family Condominium Homes:** Sold Out!

Arts and Crafts Four Square and Victorian with about 2,050 sq. ft. will be LEED for Homes Certified, Net Zero ready, and all ENERGY STAR Tier III certified.

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## **WBI EMPLOYEE PROFILE: MYRTRON JAQUAY-WILSON**

Myrtron was born and raised in the hill towns surrounding our Happy Valley for which he credits his work ethic, mellow demeanor and of course, his name. He has been working on buildings ever since his parents built their first home when he was 6 years old and started working in earnest with his father when he was 16. Ever a lover of technology and its influence on the industry, Myrt spent a couple years studying computer science in Boston before finding his way back to the beautiful hills of Western Mass to begin his career under the watchful eye of some of the most experienced and handsomely bearded craftsman in the area. He has worked as a carpenter, foreman, project manager and estimator over the last 14 years in the valley and continues his work with our knowledgeable and ever diligent sales and estimating staff in the office.



When not working, you will find Myrt listening to NPR, cruising the back roads on his motorcycle or hiking forest trails with his fiancé and their furry companions. He is ever grateful for the forward thinking and socially conscious people he gets to deal with every day as clients and coworkers and looks forward to the next innovative project to come across his desk.



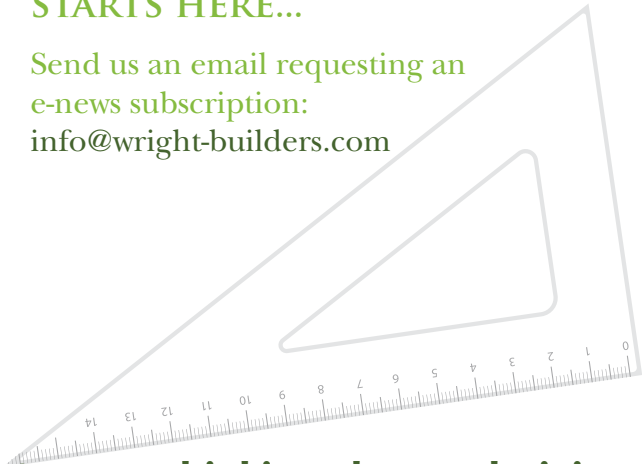
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## **FEATURED NON-PROFIT: Northampton Community Rowing**

We have selected Northampton Community Rowing for this issue's Non-Profit partner because of their 15 year commitment to developing programs for youth and adults on our beautiful Connecticut River, and for several years work to develop the new Community Boathouse facility in Northampton. Architect Dorrie Brooks, NCR president and masters rower has provided the organization leadership to bring this forward. This organization, and others providing access to the historic Connecticut River for people of all ages and abilities, gives our communities a way to understand its environmental legacy, interact with the largely preserved wild, get fit and healthy, and have lots of fun. Really, what could be better?

In addition to Wright Builders staff and volunteer involvement, donated or discounted services for the community boathouse were provided by Duffy Willard, Karl's Excavating, Valley Concrete, Devine Overhead Door, R. K. Miles Lumber, True Brothers Carpentry, Cows Building Supply, M and S Electric, Reflex Lighting, Brooder Campbell Fencing, Thayer Excavating, among others. Thank you, too!!



Photo by  
Linda Hannum

**From Todd Gocken, Program Director and Head Coach**

Northampton Community Rowing is a community-based, volunteer-driven organization providing rowing programs out of the Connecticut River Greenway Park in Northampton, Massachusetts. NCR is dedicated to enhancing the sport of rowing for youth and adults throughout the Pioneer Valley by creating an environment that inspires teamwork, sportsmanship, athleticism and camaraderie through competitive and recreational opportunities.

In 2015 Northampton Community Rowing relocated to the newly formed Connecticut River Greenway Park. This move was largely orchestrated by Jonathan Wright, a longtime rower benefactor of Northampton Community Rowing, along with significant leadership, public funding and support throughout local and state governments.

The new 11 acre site on the west shore of the Connecticut River includes a public landing for human powered craft in a harbor dug in the 19th century to connect the river to a canal that once ran to downtown Northampton. In June of 2015 NCR completed construction of a new 3600 sf boat storage building, and in February of 2016 hired a full time Program Director to oversee the growth that the new site will initiate.

Northampton Community Rowing provides year-round programming for as many as 300 youth and adult rowers of all levels and ages. For more information, visit [www.hampcrew.org](http://www.hampcrew.org)