



FRED CHARTRAND PHOTOS

The master ensuite of the Platina is bold and dramatic. But it isn't just the colours that heat up this bathroom. The two mirrors over the sinks use cutting edge technology and serve a dual purpose of adding heat to this bathroom. The mirrors are actually infrared heaters. More photos of the house can be found on the next page.

# Phoenix goes green with Platina

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Ottawa Sun

Green is good and Phoenix Homes has taken their flagship Platina design and created an eco-friendly, luxurious model home showing off the latest technologies that Mother Nature would surely admire.

Phoenix opens their brand new "green model home" today in Kanata's Heritage Hills. The doors open at noon.

This \$1.15 million home is packed with green technologies that are destined to save the earth and save potential Phoenix customers some dough on energy savings. From solar panels to a rain harvesting system, this 3,542-square-foot home has

an environmental conscious but didn't give up style to get it.

In a handout Phoenix plans to have available to customers, they write this home showcases "a new level of eco-consciousness more in keeping with the future of homebuilding. Luxury, convenience, and environmental peace of mind, married with energy savings that will pay dividends through the years, while you enjoy life in your new Phoenix home." They further admit some of the green elements in this home we have seen before such as the use of bamboo and cork floors and dual-flush toilets but "others are quite literally being tested for the first time in this very home".

This home is already generating excess electricity and Phoenix has already started selling it back to the Ontario power grid. Rahul Kochar, vice-president of Phoenix Homes, says he expects the utility bills to be substantially lower for this house. He adds the rain harvesting system alone can result in a 60% water savings. Kochar is clearly excited about all of the green technologies in this house. He's grinning green from ear to ear.

Solar panels have been placed on the roof for hydro generation and the solar voltaic cells will collect sunlight during the daylight hours and convert it into electricity. Solar water heating panels are attached to the rear wall of the



The Platina model uses brick, stone and pre-engineered wood siding to clad the exterior. Solar panels are attached to the roof and to the rear wall of the home.



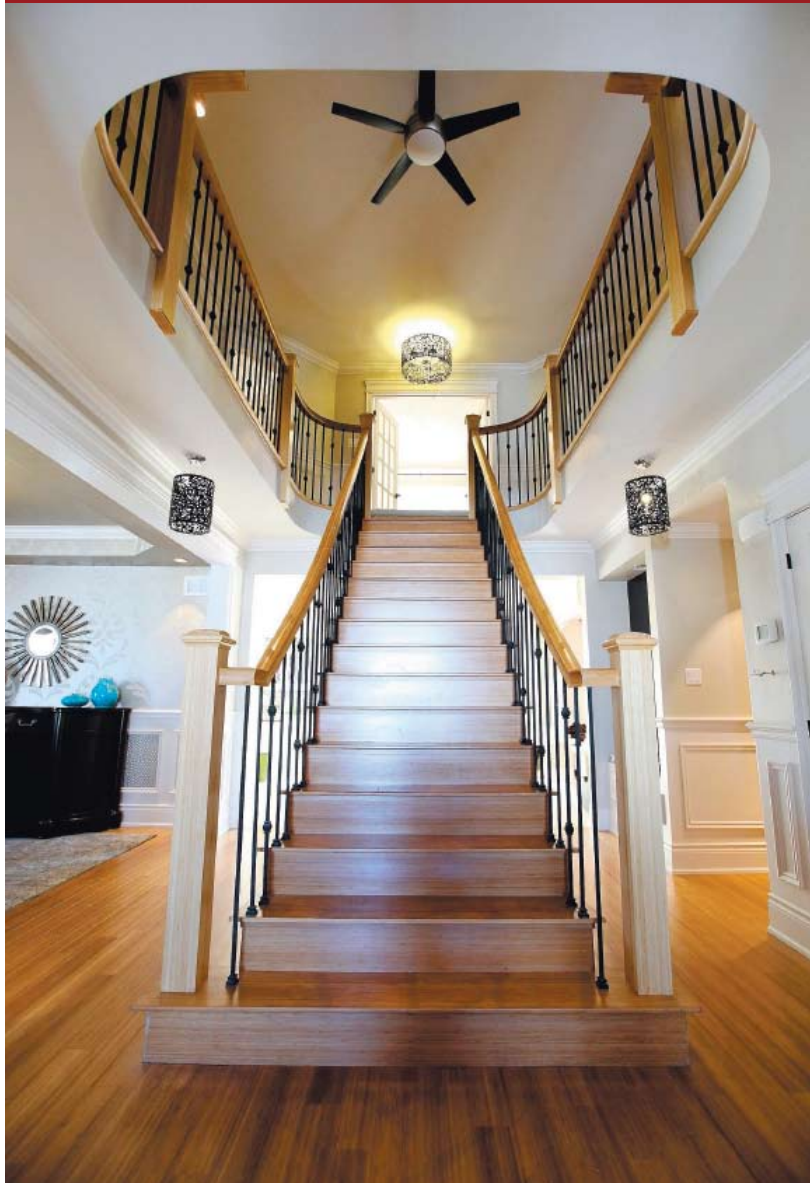
home as are solar air heater panels.

The rain harvesting system will feed water to the landscape irrigation system outside and be used to supply the toilets with grey water. There's

an 1,100-gallon plastic tank in the basement that has the same shape and size as a hot tub but it's really a giant storage container for filtered rain water. The eavestroughing is equipped with downspouts

and that's where it all starts. A float valve will determine if supply is low in the tank and it can be filled with city water in case there is not enough

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From bamboo floors throughout the main floor to recycled glass tiles used in the kitchen backsplash and on the foyer floor, the Platina pays homage to the Gods of style and the environment. This "green" model home by Phoenix Homes is valued at \$1.15 million.

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rain water to supply the toilets etc. Rain water harvesting is now permitted under the Ontario Building Code. It was amended in 2006 and allows for its use with dual plumbing systems inside a building.

And who knew there was savings to be had from the water going down your drains from showers? This home sports a "drain water heat recovery system". According to the Phoenix handout, "drain-water heat exchangers can recover heat from the hot water used in showers, sinks, dishwashers and laundry machines. Water enters your home between 5-12°C and is heated to 50°C in a hot water tank. Shower temperature, for example, is approximately 41°C and this water is flushed down the drain at 37°C. The drain water heat recovery system will use the heat from the 37°C drain water to pre-heat the water entering the home, thus reducing the energy required to bring it up to the 50°C requirement."

And who knew a mirror could also be a heating device?

"This is on the cusp of becoming mainstream," said Kochar.

In the master bedroom's Zen ensuite with its bold colouring there are two mirrors over the two sinks that are actually heaters wired to a programmable thermostat. These are infrared heaters and Phoenix opted for these instead of in-floor radiant heat in this bathroom. Kochar says it can take two to three times longer to get the heat out of a radiant floor system. These mirrors won't fog up and they're safe to



touch even when heating.

An "all-off" switch is located at the front door and all of the lighting in this home is connected to it. Using this type of switch means no lights get left on when not at home.

The list of other green and energy-saving features continues in this home with everything from next-generation LED lighting, tiles made from recycled glass, sun-sensored and powered window coverings on the south wall, in-floor radiant heating in the basement, a built-in recycling centre in the kitchen, and more.

But as green as it is, style has not been forsaken in this four-bedroom home that sits on two 35-foot lots and has a walk-out basement (The Platina normally sits on a 50-foot

lot with a base price of \$537,000). From the dramatic central staircase done in bamboo flooring to the stunning boxed ceiling treatment in the 15'x18'6" family room, this home has it all. Green doesn't have to mean boring or ugly. The blue mosaic recycled glass tiles reminiscent of a wave on the floor of the foyer prove that point.

The Platina is located at 202 Huntville Dr. in Kanata. Huntville Drive is located off of Kanata Avenue near Terry Fox Drive. The model is open Monday to Thursday from 1-7 p.m. and weekends from 12-5 p.m. For information call 613-435-7062 or visit [www.phoenixhomes.ca](http://www.phoenixhomes.ca).

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