

## Building Costs and Building Quality

Most homes, today, are built to minimum standards regarding health, safety, durability, and energy efficiency. While they can be attractive on the outside, they generally are not comfortable spaces in terms of heating and cooling and tend to require more maintenance and often directly contribute to poor health due to the toxic nature of many of the common building products used in construction.

In contrast, the homes designed by Living Systems are built to exacting, state of the art, quality standards regarding health, durability, comfort, use of energy, and use of resources such as water, building materials and products; standards that exceed LEED.

Therefore, due to their intrinsic value, homes designed by Living Systems stand apart from the usual “custom” home because they provide a balance between quality living for today and a sound investment for the future.

Living Systems’ goal is also to create a real budget rather than a hopeful one. Working with the contractor and client, steps are taken throughout the design process to assure cost control.

To understand more about building costs and quality, see the article by John McLean in Fine Home Building magazine entitled, “Commentary: Opinions on Building & Design.” You can download the article from the NEWS/MEDIA page of this website. McLean explains why it is important to make sure that your architect and builder work together to guarantee a soundly built project at the expected price. Living Systems is exactly the kind of company that McLean advocates.