

## Tah.Mah.Lah Snapshot

<b>Location</b>	Portola Valley, California
<b>Construction Timeline</b>	Broke ground in 2007; project completed summer 2011
<b>Home</b>	5,600 sq. ft. on 2.7 acre home site. Modern Barn design aesthetic.
<b>Guiding Themes</b>	Gathering Place; Outside In; Environmentally Regenerative; Global Sensibility; Multigenerational; Sense of Soul.
<b>Energy</b>	Fossil fuel free/oil independent, net-zero energy including transportation, 27-KW photovoltaic system. Only known house in the nation that was designed to be net zero including all cars/transportation, excess energy produced offsetting carbon emissions of construction process.
<b>Materials</b>	Reclaimed and FSC-certified wood, reclaimed stone and metal, high efficiency glass.
<b>Waste</b>	All wastewater (black and grey) fed to septic system and then to subsurface irrigation system – 100% of water is recycled/repurposed. The family's daily living waste materials are recycled/repurposed; 99% of the building materials from the original family home were recycled/repurposed.
<b>Water</b>	High efficiency irrigation system using harvested rainwater (50,000 gallon underground cistern) and treated black/grey wastewater. Potable/city water for domestic use only; highly efficient plumbing fixtures.
<b>Habitat</b>	Native landscaping and habitat restoration to enhance and restore native plant communities to support native wildlife. Long-term biological monitoring by a team of field biologists.
<b>Landscape</b>	All California native plants, with the exception of an organic food garden. A new species of native grass sod is used in the project. The landscape is irrigated exclusively by treated blackwater and harvested rainwater.
<b>Environmental Accreditations (to date)</b>	USGBC LEED Platinum certified: 122.5 points (LEED for Homes rating system). With innovation credits, a total of 153 points – the greenest custom home in the U.S. Build It Green, (promoting healthy, energy- and resource-efficient homes in California): 321 GreenPoint rating, the highest in the program's history. Living Building Challenge certification in progress.

**Clean Tech/  
Silicon Valley**

Owners wanted to help create a market for green goods and green jobs, demonstrating that Clean Tech is alive and well in the Silicon Valley. Seven clean tech start-ups are featured in the house.

**What's in a Name?**

Tah.Mah.Lah is the Ohlone Native American name for the mountain lion or puma, chosen by the owners out of respect for the native cats with whom we share the ecosystem, and for the Costanoan people who stewarded the land better than we ever could.

**Cost**

Tah.Mah.Lah, and green building in general, costs 2 ½ to 5 percent more *upfront* than conventional home construction – an investment that is offset and recouped over time through energy and water savings and avoidance of routine capital costs associated with traditional building. As demand increases for green construction and sustainable materials, costs will decrease.

**Project Team**

More than 50 experts in all aspects of green construction and building poured heart and soul into Tah.Mah.Lah over the course of 5+ years. Please visit [www.tahmahlah.com](http://www.tahmahlah.com) for a complete list of contractors, engineers, consultants, biologists and green suppliers who contributed to the project.

**Awards  
(to date)**

2012 Residential Award of Excellence from Sustainable San Mateo County; Green Home of the Year from *Green Builder* Magazine, National Association of Home Builders 2012 Green Home of the Year (Single Family); additional award submissions in progress.

**Education**

One house cannot make a difference, our goal, to create a demonstration project for best practices in green building and sustainable living. Make learning, research, and process available to the public through web and hosting events. Provide a site for courses and field trips to further learning on an ongoing basis. The owners have already hosted 15 events for non profits, classes or field trips and countless tours.

**Website**

[www.tahmahlah.com](http://www.tahmahlah.com)

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