

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COUNTERTOP SPECIALISTS DELIVERS THE GREENEST TOPS
TO THE HOME OF THE FUTURE

Sacramento, CA September 1st 2008 – Countertop Specialists is proud to announce its selection and completion of participation in a landmark project in residential construction in the Sacramento Area. In partnership with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, SMUD, RJ Walter homes endeavored and succeeded in constructing the second LEED Platinum Certified home in the State of California, and the first of its kind in Northern California. The LEED Certification program was established and is administered by the United States Green Building Council. As is stated on the USGBC website:

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through the creation and implementation of universally understood and accepted tools and performance criteria.

In partnership with Cencal and Northstar Surfaces, respective distributors of Vetrazzo and Paperstone, Countertop Specialists was able to fabricate and install these extremely green materials which are relatively new to the residential construction markets. Each product allowed the developer, RJ Walter Homes, to achieve a higher LEED rating than would be realized with traditional materials.

The kitchen island was made from Vetrazzo which is manufactured in Richmond, CA from 100% post consumer recycled glass. The materials for the project were donated complements of Cencal, the local distributor of Vetrazzo. Remnants from the counter were also utilized as a surround for the fireplace. The designer's choice of Ale House Amber with Patina made for a popular complement for the other neutral brown tones throughout the home.

Another profoundly green and attractive material used throughout the home is Paperstone. Paperstone is a product manufactured using recycled paper and a proprietary water-based resin. Mocha colored Paperstone was chosen for the kitchen and laundry room counters. The master bathroom was also done in Paperstone's Obsedian color.

Bob Walter, CEO of RJ Walter Homes had this to say;

We used many cutting edge products and technologies in the home. By far the most popular products were the counter tops and fireplace surround that Countertop Specialists installed. People loved the Paperstone and Vetrazzo!

SMUD established a website dedicated to the features and benefits of the home. Additional information regarding the project is also available at: www.SMUDHomeOfTheFuture.org.

Countertop Specialists:

Countertop Specialists is your local source for Green products for your kitchen and bath. Countertop Specialists has been providing countertops, cabinetry, and fixtures to the residential and commercial industries in the Sacramento area for over 30 years. Countertop Specialists provides tops in a wide variety of materials ranging from economical to extravagant to ecologically conscious. Additionally a vast selection of styles, materials, and construction methods are available in cabinetry and commercial fixtures. Countertop Specialists are trusted experts in time tested materials and construction methods as well as emerging trends and ecologically conscious textiles. More information is available at www.CountertopSpecialists.com.

Paperstone:

PaperStone Certified is a beautiful and heavy-duty solid surface known for its performance, its warm touch, its contemporary appearance and its *environmental* sustainability. It is made from 100% post-consumer recycled paper and a proprietary, petroleum-free resin. It is the only solid surface material certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, Smartwood and the Rainforest Alliance. Specifying PaperStone can earn up to five LEED points. PaperStone is durable and is recommended for residential kitchen and bath and commercial uses, indoors and out. You can find them on the internet at the www.PaperstoneProducts.com.

Vetrazzo:

Vetrazzo, the original recycled glass surface. For a decade now, Vetrazzo® has created dazzling surfaces in places where people live, work, and play all across the country. With Vetrazzo Surfaces you can express both your styles and your respect for the earth without compromise. Vetrazzo is 85% glass, and all the glass we use is recycled — so it really is good for the environment. See more at the www.Vetrazzo.com.