

eco-friendly territory

by Jenn Thornton



HOME GREEN HOME

If eco-responsibility is necessary for the future of a healthy earth, then it is only fitting that Folsom welcome the Home of the Future - an "ultra-efficient" residential bungalow constructed by local builder Robert Walter in partnership with SMUD. Their vision: a monthly energy bill of just \$24. Considering that the average energy bill (a combination of heat and gas) is somewhere in the vicinity of \$140 per month for residences built to new-home standards, and factoring in what most of us are paying at the pump, the relative smallness of a \$24 bill represents welcome relief to the homeowners who will pay it, and for the planet they inhabit. The master plan for the 1,940 square foot **Home of the Future** is nothing short of eco-genius. According to a SMUD-issued news release, the home will feature "two-inch by six-inch framing to allow more room for advanced insulation," as well as environmentally-friendly amenities, which includes solar electricity,

solar hot water, LED lighting and factory framing; the latter of which will play an instrumental role in helping the home earn LEED platinum certification — the standard by which all other green structures are judged, and very difficult to achieve. Should the **Home of the Future** earn LEED certification, it will be one of only two California homes to hold the honor; the other is in southern California. The aforementioned release also states that the combination of impressive technical and SMUD's financial incentives is what makes this home a model of green building, very clearly stating that, "The 'Home of the Future' is meant to demonstrate to the building community and the home-buying public that attractive and ultra-energy-efficient homes can be built and marketed at reasonable prices." The **Home of the Future** - a product of rigorous and thoughtful teaming - is slated for completion this month. Folsom's older residences will surround the Home, which, somewhat ironically, is just blocks removed from Old Town.