

# real estate

HOMES FOR SALE

Super-sustainable approach to building in Stapleton:

## Opening in Stapleton's new Conservatory Green: First homes in Colorado to earn the new DOE 'Challenge Home' rating



On the Home Front

Mark Samuelson

Long before national-scale builders were thinking about how to make homes more energy efficient, Colorado builder Gene Myers was hard at work on that task, coming up with innovative strategies for home sustainability that included both passive and active solar designs. It's no coincidence that Myers' firm, New Town Builders, was

also one of the first builders to realize how Denver families would be lured to Stapleton as the community's master plan unfolded – and today you can come see the most innovative series of single-family homes New

Town has created there.

Just as with other builders that have opened at Stapleton's new Conservatory Green neighborhood, a short walk from the dining at The Shops at Northfield Stapleton, 15 buyers were already waiting to contract on New Town's appealing designs, well before these two furnished 'Solaris II Collection' model homes were complete. But New Town is taking advantage of today's opening to release new sites in Conservatory Green that you can see during your tour.

You'll also see some of the most energy efficient homes ever introduced in a production-scale neighborhood – the very first new homes in Colorado to earn the U.S. Department of Energy's 'Challenge Home' designation. The energy package that Myers and his team have assembled for this opening reflects the cutting edge of energy-efficient design – new applications of Fiberglas insulation in 9½-inch-thick walls for an R-36 rating; matched to the latest efficiencies in solar energy technology (his team has two designers that are qualified for passive solar design – but arrived at the blending of photovoltaic solar matched to super-energy-efficient construction, as the most favorable matchup. "There's a significant shift taking place now in the consumers we're seeing," says New Town's vice president Bill Rectanus. "They're far more cognizant about energy costs. They can rattle off exactly what their old house was costing."

You'll see how much solar New Town is including standard with each of these bright, inviting Solaris II designs (from the very low \$400s)



New Town Builders' Dan Connerly (left), Kathy Clifton and Bill Rectanus show off a model with an optional 9.5 kilowatts of solar capacity, delivering a home that essentially uses no energy at all.

and can see plans for a new series that will be even more energy efficient – so much that they'll achieve those ratings even on homes that have no solar coefficient at all. You'll also see how close this is to The Shops at Northfield Stapleton and to Stapleton's Town Center at East 29th Avenue. And you can tour seven other builders that have opened at

Conservatory Green, along with the new Stapleton Visitor Center. To reach from Quebec at Martin Luther King, head east on MLK a half mile to Central Park Boulevard, then head north a mile-and-a-half on Central Park to Northfield Boulevard, then left a half mile to Uinta.

Mark Samuelson writes on real estate and business; you can email him at [mark@samuelsonasoc.com](mailto:mark@samuelsonasoc.com). You can see all of Mark Samuelson's columns at [DenverPost.com/RealEstate](http://DenverPost.com/RealEstate).

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### if you go ...

**WHERE:** Grand Opening, Solaris II Series by New Town Builders at Stapleton's new Conservatory Green, walking distance to The Shops at Northfield Stapleton; two collections of highly energy-efficient, attainably priced homes. 4950 Uinta St., Denver; from Quebec in Stapleton take MLK east 0.7 mi. to Central Park Blvd., north 1½ mi. to Northfield Blvd., left ½ mi. to Uinta

**PRICE:** From the very low \$400s

**WHEN:** Today, noon until 6 p.m.

**PHONE:** 720-941-0359

**WEB:** [StapletonDenver.com](http://StapletonDenver.com)