

By PATRICIA STEELE

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BUSHNELL < Bushnell resident Sue Webb watched with interest as a house was being built, just a few blocks from hers in a quiet neighborhood filled with older homes.

It was not that someone building a house in the neighborhood was unusual, it was the shape of the house that stood out < it's round.

On Saturday, builder David Moffitt invited one and all to visit his round house and learn about some of the unique features.

Moffitt, a Bushnell resident and longtime contractor in the area, decided he wanted to develop a house that could withstand Category 5 hurricanes in coastal areas.

The house in Bushnell, built under the company name Armour Homes, is one of the prototypes for the company and he has a patent pending on the process.

"I starting thinking about the need for structurally sound homes for the coastal areas about 10 years ago," Moffitt said. "People are always going to want to live near the ocean, so we need homes that can withstand the wind."

The round, concrete, secure home is also an energy-efficient building.

And because the world is working more toward becoming "green," he added several features to the home.

"Just it's structure makes the home airtight," Moffitt said. "Then we added a garden to the roof. This is actually a water run-off collection system that channels water to a cistern, which can be used for watering the lawn and flushing toilets."

The roof garden also prevents the house from building up heat during the day. This means the utility bills are lower < anywhere from 30 percent to 60 percent lower, according to Moffitt.

Webb attended the open house, taking a tour. Actually it was a second tour because she had visited the house while it was still under construction.

"It's amazing," Webb said. "There's a patio over the garage and grass growing on the roof."

Moffitt is excited because his house design is one being used by Greensburg, Kan., in the city's effort to encourage residents to rebuild to a totally green city after a tornado destroyed most of the town last year.

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