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Affordable, Energy-Efficient Housing Opens in Brooklyn

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A ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by more than 100 residents, clergy, and politicians was held on Saturday, August 9th to celebrate the completion of 8 of the 20 Habitat for Humanity homes located in the heart of the Bedford Stuyvesant neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York. The featured speaker at this event, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, raved about these simple and beautiful homes and the continuing need for more affordable housing in New York City.



These high-performance homes have been made available for low-income first-time homebuyers through Habitat for Humanity NYC (HfH-NYC) and a unique partnership between Steven Winter Associates (SWA), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (PATH) program, and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

Based on recommendations made by SWA, these attached single-family homes feature a plethora of PATH technologies, including: ENERGY STAR lighting and appliances; low-e windows; low- or no-VOC paints; programmable thermostats, allowing residents to set temperatures according to house occupancy; tightly sealed walls and insulation; and sealed-combustion boilers with insulated storage tanks for heating and hot water. With more efficient insulation and windows and a tighter building envelope, it was possible to reduce the size of the boiler to approximately half its original capacity, thus saving energy and home heating costs.

Making their homes more efficient and *green* is the first step in HfH-NYC's goal of ensuring all of their projects result in ENERGY STAR homes. SWA will continue in its support of this objective by offering continuing assistance and guidance. A second ribbon-cutting will take place on September 6, when the last 12 homes will be dedicated.

Steven Winter Associates is an architecture, engineering, and building systems research firm with offices in Norwalk, CT, New York, NY, and Washington, DC. The firm specializes in energy performance analysis, sustainable materials specification, indoor air quality, accessibility, technology transfer, and event management. Information on this and related projects is available on the SWA website at www.swinter.com.

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