

MORE THAN SUSTAINABLE, HEALTHY HOME 2010

By Lindsey Manthei O'Connor, Rosetta Hardscapes PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROSETTA HARDSCAPES



In 2010, a 5,800 sq. ft. home was built in the Chicago suburbs, but this wasn't just any house. Healthy Home 2010 was designed as a prototype for sustainable, healthy homes with sustainable design inside and out, plus unique, green landscaping. Colin Taheny, vice president of RYCO Landscaping, a landscape architectural design and professional maintenance company in Lake in the Hills, Ill., led a design team that donated the landscape design work for the project.

"We consider the outside of Healthy Home to be one of the most important aspects of the entire home, because it all starts there," explained Healthy Child Healthy World Education and Outreach Coordinator Victoria Di Iorio. "The goal for the landscaping was to be more than sustainable. We

wanted it to promote healthy living as well."

Regional manufacturer Rosetta of Michigan donated 18 steps and 1,080 sq. ft. of Grand Flagstone slabs for the project. Designers of the project chose Rosetta's architectural precast slabs and steps because the natural stone colors and textures gave the landscaping the desired ambiance.

The Design

For the walkout basement, RYCO's design team created a patio using Grand Flagstone slabs. These slabs have the look of natural stone with detailed texture and a random pattern, but with consistent heights and an easy-to-install pattern that Dior Builders installed.

To provide access to the rest of the yard and the front of the house, the RYCO team designed an elegantly curving staircase using Rosetta's Step Collection. The staircase contributed to the home's healthy goals due to the consistent rise of each and every step. The consistent dimensions of the steps and slabs also made the patio and staircase fast and easy for Dior Builders to install.

The Outcome

Di Iorio leads tours of Healthy Home 2010 and said it's always fun to show people the backyard landscaping. "The walkout basement has a wall of windows overlooking a lake, and when people walk out onto the patio and see the flagstone slabs, they say, 'This is beautiful! What kind of stone is it? Where was it quarried?' When I tell them it's actually isn't natural stone, people's mouths just drop open."

The project, which is seeking USGBC LEED certification, was made possible by generous donations and sponsorship from a multitude of sources, including builders, materials suppliers and designers.



Top: Healthy Home 2010 was a prototype sustainable home built in the Chicago suburbs to showcase healthy living, inside and out.

Middle: The Grand Flagstone slabs had a uniform 1.75 in. thickness and an easy-to-install pattern that made the project quick to install. Plus, the consistent thicknesses of the slabs created a safe walkway for pedestrians.

Bottom: The consistent dimensions of the Rosetta steps and slabs created a safe walking environment for the Healthy Home project. The environmentally-friendly concrete contributed toward the LEED certification the project is seeking. Visitors touring the prototype home are surprised the patio flagstone slabs and steps aren't natural stone.

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