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Dwell Development LLC. Sustainable designs with the power to change communities

At a Glance

Location:

Seattle, WA

Founded:

2005

Employees:

2

Specialty:

Modern, sustainable residential design

WHAT DO PROFESSIONAL hair-salon products and cutting-edge green home design have in common? Well, not much—unless you count Anthony Maschmedt, principal at Seattle-based Dwell Development LLC. After 13 years working in marketing and sales for the professional hair-care industry, Maschmedt's career path took a sharp turn, and he has spent the last six years leading his own firm with modern, sustainable design.

Although Maschmedt's career shift was certainly dramatic, it was not without precedent—he and his wife had been flipping homes for years. “My heart, my passion, was always in real estate and in design,” he says. So when he had a chance to join the family business—Maschmedt Design & Construction—he took it. After three years, though, Maschmedt decided that while building quality Craftsman homes was all well and good, he wanted to pursue work that was a little edgier and a lot greener. Thus, Dwell Development was born.

Maschmedt set off on his own in 2005, and his first step was to brush up on his sustainable building techniques and technologies. He was quick to put what he learned to use, building high-efficiency spec homes with a sleek, modern aesthetic. With every home the company built, Maschmedt says, their knowledge and skills improved. “Every project to me was a step in the evolution [of the company],” he says.

A few years ago there were plenty of green-minded home buyers to go around, but nowadays building spec homes is a daunting prospect economically. Although the down market has certainly made spec homes a riskier proposition, Maschmedt isn't overly concerned. For one thing, he's sold every property his firm has developed. For another, Dwell Development's approach to green design has proved very popular.

The majority of the firm's properties are in the Columbia City, Beacon Hill, and Central areas of Seattle,

through each of which runs the city's recently built light-rail system, and available public transit makes it easier to embrace a sustainable lifestyle. Additionally, Dwell Development incorporates eco-friendly building materials and techniques, and its designs encourage vibrant, walkable, sustainable neighborhoods. "Let's put people in a position to make green lifestyle choices above and beyond buying a green house," Maschmedt says.

This philosophy, especially when combined with the firm's keen eye for modern design, has set Dwell Development apart from the crowd—another reason they've been able to weather the recession. "Two years ago there were 40-50 guys doing what we're doing, and now there's like five of us," Maschmedt says. "Those guys that are still around are really good at what they do." Not only has Dwell Development made a name for itself with homeowners—Maschmedt is in the process of preselling a space to a couple who are moving to Seattle for the express purpose of living in a Dwell Development home—but they also have a reputation

Let's put people in a position to make green lifestyle choices above and beyond buying a green house.

ANTHONY MASCHMEDT, PRINCIPAL



Previous page: Dwell Development is always looking for additional ways to make homes sustainably sound. In this photo, refined, well-lit interiors preside over the urban landscape. On the outside walls, rainwater is funneled through pipes and collected in barrels for future use.
 Top: The kitchen in the 3508 S. Edmunds home features oak cabinets, composite counters, engineered hardwood floors, and steel architectural detailing, all done in simple, clean lines.
 Bottom: The living area of the S. Edmunds home at dusk. The substantial glasswork admits ample daylighting into the space.





Above: Dwell Development's designs are eco-friendly, but they also encourage green living throughout the neighborhood by promoting walking and new vegetation.

Left: The front entry of the S. Edmunds home includes wood, glass, cement steps and stepping-stones, and even grass. Dwell Development often incorporates several materials into its exteriors to vary each home's texture.

in the local sustainable building community as a resource. For example, a recent envelope-efficiency test on one of their homes turned unexpectedly into an impromptu demonstration for green builders, manufacturers, and even students from around the Pacific Northwest.

As far as they've come, this is only the beginning for Dwell Development. Not only have Maschmedt and his team already begun to offer their services à la carte—from consulting to custom homes—but they also have plans to start producing net-zero modular homes. In addition, the firm is considering hiring itself out as a green building consultant to do workshops and training for other green builders—which would be good for the industry as well as the company. “Now is the perfect time to promote and blow the horn loudly on designing and building green, energy-efficient homes,” Maschmedt says. “It's the future for this industry, so when the housing market does come back, I want Dwell to be out front, leading the charge.” —*Kelly O'Brien*



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