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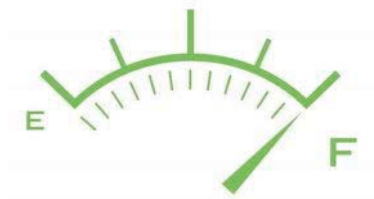
DI GIACOMO HOMES & RENOVATION, INC.

DESIGN/BUILD REVIEW

Volume 12 : Issue 6

The heat is on! Summer is here and it has us thinking about home cooling and energy use ... read on to learn about the HERS home energy rating system. Then, for fun, take a peek at the latest in glass tiles ... with colors and textures as tantalizing as Sebastian Joe's daily ice cream flavors!

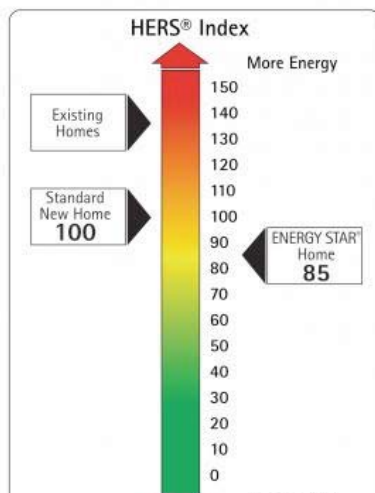
THINK ABOUT IT : HOME ENERGY



What Kind of Gas Mileage Does Your House Get?

The Home Energy Rating System, or HERS index, is similar in concept to the MPG sticker found on all new car windows. Developed as part of the federal [Energy Star Program](#), HERS measures the expected energy efficiency of a home based on established standards just as the MGP sticker measures expected

miles per gallon for cars.



A [HERS score](#) of 100 is considered the energy baseline for a new home built to current code. Existing US housing stock averages 135 on the HERS index. A home that scores zero on the HERS index uses no net energy for heating, cooling and other functions.

The HERS takes many factors into account, including insulation levels, window quality and the efficiencies of heating/cooling equipment. It even includes appliances and lighting making it a truly comprehensive score and thus an effective tool for comparing all homes using a single number.

How does the HERS work? A third party rater, using various testing and diagnostic equipment, verifies the home's energy use and production. Performance is documented and becomes a permanent record. Verifiable, transparent and accessible



information is the life-blood of markets and necessary in the making of smart personal choices. When preparing to build or purchase new, be sure to ask about the home's HERS score -- many builders use this rating system and it is recognized by most lenders and government agencies.



DiGiacomo Homes & Renovation, 2011 Green Dream Home, HERS Score: 39

PRODUCT FOCUS : GLASS TILE

Designer Favorite: Glass Tile



According to the National Kitchen and Bath Association ([NKBA](#)), glass tile is fast becoming designers' number one choice for accent and field applications. In fact, it was named one of the top five design trends for 2012.

This comes as no surprise with the rainbow of glass colors, hues, textures and sizes available. In fact, it's hard not to feel a little giddy when perusing [Sonoma](#) and [Oceanside's](#) vast selection iridescent glass tiles with names like "muse," "truffle," and "sahara."

There's no doubt about it, glass is hot. But is it merely a passing fancy or is glass tile destined to become a timeless finish added to designers' permanent portfolio of favorites?

As a design-build company that is committed to long-term sustainability, we make a conscious effort to incorporate and steer clients toward fresh, but timeless finish selections. We believe that timeless design supports the value of home investments and reduces waste through the unnecessary recycling

of outdated or passe remodels.

Timelessness is achieved by designing with finishes that compliment the overriding architectural style of a home - whether it is a mid-century modern, traditional tudor or family farmhouse. We've found a comfortable place for glass tile in all of these applications - pairing [matte subway glass in rich merlot](#) colors with doug fir craftsman-style kitchen cabinets, [sea green mosaic glass](#) tiles with crisp white fixtures in a cheerful children's bath, [smoky iridescent modern subway](#) with cherry in a kitchen and monochromatic [etched cement-color glass](#) with Calacatta marble in our 2011 Green Dream Home master bath.

[Contact us](#) when you're ready to design with glass or other finishes - we'll be sure to help you find the right tile for the right application!

CONTACT US



DiGiacomo Homes & Renovation, Inc. is an award winning, husband and wife, design-build firm that is honored to bring timeless beauty, value and sustainability to neighborhoods throughout the Twin Cities. For more than 20 years we have been invited by clients to remodel existing homes and to build new in beloved neighborhoods in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Golden Valley, Minnetonka, and Excelsior. **Our services include** site evaluation, architectural design, interior design, energy planning, and construction. As always, [contact us](#) with questions or to begin collaborating on the home you want in a neighborhood you love!

Sincerely,

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