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First Local Home Expo a Big Success

By Sophie Braccini



Vendor Bill Creasi of Sola-Brite explains his products
Photo Andy Scheck

was busy the entire day, people seemed very interested and engaged and the 42 vendors were happy with the outcome."

"This show has been fabulous," said Kari Grosz, the owner of Lamorinda Construction and Consulting, "We are seeing a lot of people who are concerned about their old homes and the repairs that are needed. Energy concerns, repairs and updates are at the top of their priorities. It is Lamorinda families meeting Lamorinda businesses, discussing how we can work together in the community."

Canyon Construction owner Chris Avant added that he appreciated the opportunity to network with other professionals. He was also pleased with the number of contacts and the level of awareness about green building expressed by visitors.

Since LamorindaWeb's owner, Tiraporn Olsen, and staff are young mothers themselves, they included a "kid zone" where parents could safely leave their kids to play while they strolled through the Expo.

"We were exhausted at the end of the day and very pleased with the outcome," said Novak "we will definitely do it again next year. We may have to move to a bigger venue."

There could not have been a better venue for the first Lamorinda Home Expo than the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building - the large window let in plenty of light, the warmth of the wood structure and the elegance of the modern concept of the building all contributed to create a cheery, home-like atmosphere.

Mostly local vendors from architects, builders, solar vendors, organizers, kitchen and bath specialists, landscape designers, and interior designers displayed products and offered ideas for residents who want to embellish their environment. This first local expo took place on January 28, 2012, and was organized by Lamorinda Web, a young online group that aims at getting the community together.

"I am planning some work in my house," said visitor Denah Bookstein, "this is a very nice place, the professionals are all of very nice quality, and there is something for everybody. I met a lot of talented people here. I also like the way it is set up, it created some intimacy and a pleasant atmosphere."

Lamorinda Web's Julie Novak estimated the number of visitors at about 700. "This was our first year and we didn't know what to expect," said the Special Event Manager, "it

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[back](#)

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