

DAILY NEWS

HOMES

The Closer: Real estate at the movies, trees grow in East Harlem, and more

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2010, 10:08 AM



Filmmaker Brent Green (l.) tells the story of a house that was a labor of love in 'Gravity Was Everywhere Back Then,' playing at IFC in May.

With his bare hands in his [Pennsylvania](#) backyard, artist/filmmaker [Brent Green](#) constructed an entire movie set that included a small town and a surreal interpretation of someone's house that would make [Salvador Dali](#) proud.

"Gravity Was Everywhere Back Then," Green's new film, premieres in [New York](#) at the IFC on May 7 at 7 p.m. It tells the story of [Leonard Wood](#), a hardware store employee who, when his wife, Mary, was diagnosed with terminal cancer, built a house that he thought could cure her. Sadly, it did not, but after Mary passed away, Leonard kept building until he fell off the roof of the house and was sent to a nursing home.

The story of the house for healing inspired Green (below l.) to make a film about Leonard and Mary, and to re-create the home. Objects from the house, as well as full rooms, are on display at Andrew Edlin Gallery, 134 10th Ave. (near 18th St.) through June 5.

"Here's a guy who had 17 cents in his bank account at all times and just kept building this house for a wonderful purpose," says Green, whose short films have garnered grants and awards. "When I was going through Leonard's things, all I kept thinking was, no one ever died from running out of money or energy. So I decided to use as much as I had of both to make this film happen."

For info, go to www.edlingallery.com.

Plenty of trees grow in [Brooklyn](#), but in East [Harlem](#), there are not as many as the city or real estate developers would like. Starting yesterday, Earth Day, Tapestry, a new 12-story, 185-unit rental designed by Pei Cobb Freed & Partners and MHG Architects will plant a tree in the neighborhood for each lease signed by Memorial Day.

At the corner of 124th St. and Second Ave., Tapestry is an environmentally responsible structure built by [Lettire Construction Corp.](#) and [Jonathan Rose Cos.](#) The building, featuring spacious apartments with bay

windows and a common garden, is offering an [iPad](#) to renters who lease without a broker by June 1.

The trees will count toward the [MillionTreesNYC](#), a citywide program focusing on underserved neighborhoods. Prices start at \$1,950 for studios and \$2,125 for one-bedrooms. Two-bedrooms cost \$3,000. Nancy Packes' Signature Marketing Services is leasing the building. Call (212) 410-6505 or go to [tapestry124.com](#).

Seizing an opportunity to help a local family in need and show what they can do, the [Hamptons Green Alliance](#) (HGA), a group of local contractors dedicated to green construction, has rebuilt a burned-down house, using the most advanced eco-friendly materials and methods.

The [Southampton](#), L.I., house, built for the family of David and [Saundra Dubin](#), had burned down in December 2008. It was reborn as a provable model of net-zero energy embodying carbon-neutral living, the first constructed on the South Shore.

"To see this in a book is one thing, but when it's a living thing you understand how these houses perform," says [Bob Morsch](#), a founder of the HGA and head of business development for Telemark, a respected local builder. "The incremental cost of building this is about \$70,000, but that's paid off within seven years. The house will save the owner about \$250,000 over a normal 30-year mortgage."

Intrigued by the effort, children Jeremy and [Jordan Dubin](#) embarked on a science project chronicling the creation of their house. They presented their findings to classmates, green building advocates and a congressman.

The house's highlights include a super-insulated building envelope, to keep out unwanted air, geothermal heating and cooling, solar-powered electricity and smart-home technology to regulate energy output.

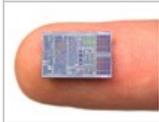
For info on this community effort, go to [hgahouse.com](#).

ARTICLES AND OFFERS FROM AROUND THE WEB

Advertisement



Penny stocks might be the secret to becoming rich overnight...



The nanotech juggernaut; An awakening \$2.6Trillion giant...



New York : New trick allows New York drivers to get auto insurance as low as \$9



If you are a smoker and live in [New York] you need to read this...



Myrtle Beach on sale. Rates as low as \$44 per night & package specials at select resorts.