



Contact: Rae Van Maanen
The Key Group
rae@thekeygrp.com
917.374.1636

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CASA ECOMAYA, AN INNOVATIVE “GREEN” DREAM HOME IN MEXICO

Ground-Breaking Husband-Wife Team Pioneer LEED-Certified Standards

South of the Border

Mérida, Mexico (May 2015) - In the heart of the Mayan civilization and just minutes away from the archeological site of Dizibilchaltun, David Patterson and Maria Jose Sansores are setting new standards for the future of the Mexico, and potentially all of Latin America. With the construction of their family “green” dream home, *Casa Ecomaya* is a spectacular 3,900 square-foot four bedroom, four-and-a-half bath luxurious, modern design house featuring technology new to Mexico, state-of-the art amenities, a home automation system, solar panels, eco-friendly VOC paint, plus much more.

Casa Ecomaya, located in the magnificent Jack Nicklaus-designed Yucatan Country Club community , will serve as a showroom and educational tool for homeowners and professionals, demonstrating the opportunities and advantages of earth-friendly, energy efficient homes. The combination of green building concepts and design merged with a unique mixture of advanced and local material is an original concept in an unexplored market. “This house is the first of its kind in Mexico, providing an example of a healthier, more sustainable way of living without sacrificing comfort or style. It shows our kids what’s possible if you follow your dreams, while helping ensure the future of the planet so they can follow theirs.” explained Patterson.

Neither Patterson, a US native who moved to the Yucatan in 1999, nor his wife Sansores, a Mexican national, set out to be environmental construction pioneers. The couple spent years exploring Mexico to source the technology to build a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-certified home for their growing multi-cultural family of four.

Securing sponsorships has been a top priority for the Patterson-Sansores team. Early on they found an insulated concrete block invented in Arizona that effectively uses the structural stability and durability of standard concrete block but incorporates environmentally friendly Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) foam insulation. The block system, known as **Omni Block**, is a cost-effective, energy-efficient wall system that is 20 times more resistant to heat than standard block, ideal for Mexico where temperatures routinely top 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Most recently **Canterland Mexico**, a local company which

manufactures and exports Yucatan stone products globally, offered to supply the flooring for the green home in addition to stone for the outer arching wall. **Smart Glass**, an award winning glass design, décor, and jewelry firm, will be providing an original chandelier for the *Casa Ecomaya* dining room, proving “green” is about décor as well as sustainable construction. Founded by celebrity designer Kathleen Plate, Smart Glass uses a unique patented process to convert post-consumer glass bottles into beautiful and ecological home décor, chandeliers, jewelry and artwork that can be seen at the Guggenheim Museum and Coca Cola Headquarters, along with numerous other hotels, restaurants, museums, corporate spaces and private residences.

The *Casa Ecomaya* project is fortunate to have also garnered the sponsorship of **Inedit**, a multinational sustainability consulting firm led by husband and wife architectural team Juan Carlos Contreras and Ileana Ceron Palma. Both Contreras and Palma have advanced degrees in Environmental Science and Technology, Architecture, Energy and Environmental Sciences, as well as certification in LEED AP BD+C. The *Casa Ecomaya* project, registered in the LEED for homes program of the United States Green Building Council (USGBC), the leading non-profit coalition for advancing environmentally responsible construction methods, will be open to the public for tours starting in December 2015.