### Sustainability Series Session #1: The Many Facets of Insulating a Home

Tonight, January 17th, is the first of Golden Real Estate’s 6-part Sustainability Series. The topic this week is home insulation. Allow me to introduce the presenters and to share some of what I myself have learned from insulating my own homes and office, and from 17 years of selling homes and being active in the sustainability arena.

We have two great presenters at tonight’s session. One is Steve Stevens, whose passion since retiring from Bell Labs has been the conversion of an energy-wasting 1970s brick ranch into a showpiece of sustainability through solar power, energy efficiency and super insulation. In addition to having insulation blown into his attic and walls, he had layers of poly-iso and structural insulated panels added to his exterior walls. Then he went so far as to dig out and expose his home’s foundation walls so poly-iso insulation could be applied to them. He also constructed “air locks” on all entrances, and built a greenhouse on his south-facing exposure — both extremely effective insulating techniques.

Several years ago when Steve’s home was on the Golden Solar Tour, I shot a 40-minute video in which Steve described his home’s sustainability features -- by far the longest of all the videos I have ever created for homes on that annual tour. A link to the video is at JimSmithColumns.com.

The Graying of the Internet — What About Readability?

I’ve written before about the subject of readability, both in print and online — a subject that is dear to me not only as a senior citizen with naturally reduced visual acuity, but as a former typesetter trained in what makes one font more readable than another.

It’s bad enough that more and more publications and most web pages use sans serif fonts like Arial, but there’s another strange trend of *grazing* those typefaces — literally. Have you noticed?

The rest of this article is 100% black Times Roman. These two sentences are 50% black Arial. Not as readable, right? Why publishers and webmasters would choose to reduce the readability of their product in this way is beyond me.

In an ideal world, sans serif fonts such as Arial would be used only for headlines, bolder. On the other hand, body text like you’re reading here should be in a serif font such as this Times Roman or, my favorite, Georgia.

You can join me in my quest. Start by changing the default font in your email program to your favorite serif typeface.

PS: I can celebrate that starting this week, the Denver Post is allowing this ad to be in Times Roman instead of Arial, which was required previously, so we are making progress!

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You don’t want to miss this flawless 4-bedroom, 2-bath bungalow with a 4-car garage at 7005 W. 32nd Ave. The impeccable remodel has left no surface untouched. This ranch style home with a walk-out basement features concrete countertops, farmhouse sink, new appliances, lighting, hardwoods, bathrooms and railings. The outside space features a new front deck, stamped concrete driveway, patios, gardens and beautiful yard space. This one won’t last, so book a showing today or come by the open house on Saturday, Jan. 19th, 1-3 PM. Or call Kristi Brunel at 303-525-2520 for a private showing. View a narrated video tour at www.WheatRidgeHome.info.

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