



February 17, 2016

To Prospective Clients:

I have known James Plagmann for well over a decade and have worked with him on numerous projects including energy-efficiency upgrades, solar additions, and new house design. Over the years, we have had numerous in-depth conversations regarding green building, net zero energy building, passive solar design, healthy homes, and a host of related topics.

James and I even worked for a while in hurricane-ravaged Greensburg, Kansas to design a state-of-the-art passive solar green home. Although the home was never built, due to a lack of funding, James created a truly amazing design that fit exceedingly well within the character of the community and, what was more impressive to me, would perform well using passive solar within a rather densely packed neighborhood. Integrating passive solar in suburban and urban neighborhoods can be quite challenging.

James Plagmann has an extensive knowledge in a wide range of topics required to design and build superefficient, passive solar, high-performance homes. He is the skilled designer was an artistic eye who is capable of producing beautiful, environmentally friendly, comfortable, high-performance homes. I liked his work so much that I featured one of his homes in one of my books, *The Solar Home: Passive Heating and Cooling*.

James is also a pleasure to work with. He has a great sense of humor and is conversant on a wide range of topics. He is able to explain complex ideas as well as any human I've ever known. Because of this I asked him to co-teach a green building class with me in Denver, Colorado. I was extremely impressed with his ability to communicate ideas and his extensive grasp of green building during that class.

James is smart as can be and works well with others. He listens carefully to what his clients want and does his best to meet those needs. James is cost-conscious and can help steer clients' designs in directions that will achieve their goals while keeping to their budget. He's also an extremely practical architect who understands the ins and outs of building, and his designs reflect this practical approach, which makes him an asset to your builder.

In 2011, my home in east central Missouri at The Evergreen Institute where I teach classes on residential renewable energy and green building burned as a result of an electrical fire caused by mice chewing on the insulation of wires. I hired James to help design a superefficient, net zero energy home unlike any on the planet. It's a joy to live in, comfortable, and economical. We power our home entirely with solar and wind energy.

If you're looking for a top-notch architect who's fun to work with, knowledgeable, skilled, artistic, and sensitive to your needs, you couldn't do better.

Sincerely yours,

Dan Chiras, Ph.D.

Director, The Evergreen Institute
President, Sustainable Systems Design
Author of numerous books on residential renewable energy and green building