

FROM PAGE A1

GREEN

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manager Robbie Finnie designed the plans to transform the screen porch of a CCS residential house into a green, usable space.

To make the addition green, Zane — a certified green professional — worked through a host of energy-efficient and eco-friendly criteria. The crew blew Icynene insulation in the ceiling to get into every nook and cranny, installed formaldehyde-free wall insulation as well as high performance windows and recycled content drywall.

Energy Star-rated entry door and light fixtures also contributed to the renovation's green status, as did no VOC paint and recycled-content flooring. A ductless mechanical system for heating and cooling eliminated the highest source of energy loss, ducts, Zane said.

But energy-efficiency alone doesn't qualify a room as green. Matthews Enterprises also diverted 50 percent of the project scraps to the landfill, had leftover wood chopped into small pieces for kindling and donated the

steps from the original building to a family.

"It requires a little more effort to try and do these types of projects," said Don Richardson, CCS director of business and community development. "You have to research who's got the material and how it can be applied. If you have someone who's really interested in truly delving into it, they're not the average contractors. They're working not just a step beyond but several steps beyond the run of the mill."

And though Zane said he somewhat expected the addition to be the only one in the state, both Richardson and Myers were beside themselves.

"We were very elated," Richardson said. "Most nonprofits are very involved in community health, life-changing kinds of things, innovative ideas and ways to improve community. It was a natural tie for us, and we were elated to see it happen at our renovation site."

The renovation of CCS's screen porch began four months ago. A \$25,000 Cannon Grant not only made that project possible but also other improvements that need-

ed to be made to the 1924 house, such as installing insulation to the attic, putting on a new roof and preventing water leakage in the basement.

The new room itself acts as a boutique, with wigs, prosthetics and special bras free for cancer patients.

"It kind of looks like Victoria's Secret," Myers said. "It really does, it's really pretty. And it's all free."

The products themselves — all of which are donated — aren't second-hand, either. Some of the wigs are \$500, and the prosthetics range from \$200 to \$1,000.

"This is not chincy,"

Myers said. "We've got good products for very deserving people. We are all about living."

And the green aspect of the boutique helps CCS continue to help its patients, saving money on heating and cooling.

"We've just got a very air-tight facility now, which means our utilities will go down," Myers said. "Every penny we save will go back to our cancer patients. It's a great thing in a down economy, and we're saving the environment."

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Looking forward: Green movement

While green building will help Carolina Cancer Services save money to further help its patients, eco-friendly construction can help people of all walks of life not only protect the environment but create a better living environment.

"A lot of times, these green materials end up in buildings that are more environmentally friendly to people," said Don Richardson, CCS director of business and community development. "In searching for green, it's very important because of its total effect on reducing different kind of pollutants in the atmosphere and of course reduction in stuff that's going in the landfill."

And green building seems to be the wave of the future. Zane Matthews, owner of Matthews Enterprises, LLC, said that even though eco-friendly architecture is in its infancy, it certainly seems to be an up-and-coming trend.

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