

SOUTHEAST BUILDING CONFERENCE

Builders win energy, water-saving awards

■ More Southeast Building Conference news inside.

Times staff writer

Tampa Bay builders were honored for their energy- and water-saving efforts last weekend at the Southeast Building Conference, a trade show and convention that attracts builders from 10 Southeastern states.

The Grand Aurora Energy Award went to Emerald Builders of Palm Harbor for its Savannah Pointe homes in Tarpon Springs.

Those homes include air conditioners/heat pumps with high SEER ratings, energy recovery units that heat water with the heat from the air-conditioning system, tinted energy-efficient windows, ceiling fans, enhanced insulation, and an improved ridge vent system, said Carol Turk, who owns the company with her husband, Richard.

Aurora energy awards went to two other area builders:

■ MacKay Homes of Riverview won for its Aruba model at the Lakes of Cristina in Riverview, which offers R-30 insulation in the walls, three-zone air conditioning,

a high-efficiency heat pump, covered lanai and front porch for sun protection, ceiling fans in each room, vented aluminum soffits and ridge venting, and a heat recovery system, said vice president and owner Jim MacKay.

■ The Fechtel Co. of Tampa won for a private residence at Lakeside Point in Odessa that has a geothermal closed-loop air-conditioning system, a heat-recovery unit, operable transom windows over doors to increase natural ventilation, deep overhangs to shade windows and doors, and tinted windows.

The awards are sponsored by Florida Power, Tampa Electric, Florida Power & Light, and Gulf Power.

The homes by Emerald Builders and the Fechtel Co. also received Grand Aurora Water-Wise Awards, presented by the West Coast Regional Water Supply Authority, for incorporating water-saving techniques and products into their homes.

Emerald's winning home includes reclaimed water, an irrigation system only for those plants requiring regular watering, indige-

nous plants, and a monitor that shuts off the sprinklers during rain.

The Fechtel house used xeriscape techniques in the design and selection of plantings, retained much of the original foliage and trees, and used an irrigation system with automatic shutoff and a water-efficient dishwasher, president Jay Fechtel said.

Builders and interior designers were also honored with Aurora awards for excellence in construction and design. More than 300 entries in 65 categories were judged by a panel of national experts who reviewed slides in Washington, D.C., several months ago.

The Tampa Bay winners are:

Detached single-family home, \$200,001-\$300,000: the Greens at El Conquistador, Bradenton; Neal Custom Homes.

Interior merchandising, \$300,001-\$500,000: the Madrid at Legacy Golf and Country Club, Bradenton; Godfrey & Associates interior designers, Winter Park.

Custom home over \$3-million: private residence, Don Rowe Construction, Parrish.

Kitchen under \$300,000: Country Club at Lakewood Ranch, Sarasota; Lee Wetherington Homes.

Attached home under \$100,000: Heather Lakes in Brandon; U.S. Home.

Detached single-family home, \$150,001-\$200,000: Walden Lake Polo & Country Club, Plant City; Florida Design Communities.

Attached for-sale home, \$200,001-\$300,000: Bacopa Bay, St. Petersburg; JMC Communities.

Detached single-family home, \$1-million-\$2-million: the Viscaya at Avila Golf & Country Club, Tampa; Alvarez Homes.

Detached single-family home, \$500,001-\$1-million: Private residence, Tampa; Milford Custom Homes, Leon Goldenberg, architect.

Kitchen under \$300,000: Westshore model by Marc Rutenberg Homes at Lansbrook, Palm Harbor; Marc-Michaels Interior Design, Winter Park.