



# Eleven Episodes of Public Television's *Hometime* Featured a Home with an



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## Water-Managed Exterior Finish System Receives “Star” Billing on TV Series

It's called the "House with Character." Built and featured on 11 consecutive episodes of the public television series *Hometime*, it's a home that's every bit as elegant and uplifting as one could imagine.

Featuring more than 50 different roof planes, the *Hometime* House with Character has a dozen dormers, concrete roof tiles and exterior soffit and fascia made from California redwood.

The beautiful, hand-crafted stone and stucco exterior matches the refined architecture found inside the home.

Once inside, the eye is in awe as numerous soffits, light shafts and barrel-vault ceilings combine to create heartwarming and luxurious spaces. There are lots of windows, cherry millwork and marble and hardwood flooring. The home is bright, warm and inviting. Even the property cant be beat.

The House with Character overlooks Minnesota's glorious Lake Minnetonka, west of Minneapolis.

## Quest for Character

*Hometime* co-hosts Dean Johnson and Robin Hard wanted to build something unique. They aimed for a new house that looked old and rustic. They wanted a home with modern amenities, but also one that had character and a sense of nostalgia. By interviewing architects, designers and shelter magazine editors, they made some conclusions about home design and choice of materials. It's the choice of materials, they learned, that matters the most.

During one *Hometime* episode, Hartl said that a stucco-look exterior was chosen at the outset of the design process. But after researching various stucco-look techniques and systems, *Hometime* producers decided to use DUROSCREEN 1000 (formerly called the DUROCK Direct-Applied Exterior Finish System), a water-managed exterior finish system from United States Gypsum Company, Chicago.

"We decided to go with an upgraded system that uses cement board," Hard said during one episode. "The system really resists denting and cracking, and there's very little chance of water damage."

"What we really liked about the exterior is the concrete backer board," Johnson said. "You don't have a thin layer of product on top of some type of expanded polystyrene foam board that can be dented. This system is going to hold up well."

The USG system delivers an appealing, upscale stucco look while ensuring against damage from water-intrusion.

The system is designed to allow any incidental water that penetrates the exterior surface (such as around windows and wall/roof intersections) a means of escape through a drainage plane and flashing and weeping details.

Impact- and moisture-resistant DUROCK Cement Board is used as the substrate. The glass-fiber reinforced cement board panels will not delaminate,



**The base coat was applied to the exterior cement board surface.**

soften or deteriorate in the presence of water.

Besides withstanding water intrusion, the system resists temperature extremes, humidity, high winds and freeze-thaw cycles. The system installs quickly and resists puncture and impact damage.

## Quick Application

The House with Character was built with concrete walls finished with quarried stone and stucco. Special forms made of polystyrene were used to hold the poured concrete. The forms, which stack and

interlock together, are reinforced internally with rebar and stay in place once the concrete is poured. Each form has embedded on its outer surface metal strips that served as attachment points for the cement board overlayment.

Using 4-foot by 8-foot sheets of the cement board, the drywall crew fastened the panels using special corrosion-resistant screws. Afterward, the

stucco contractor applied 4-inch fiberglass tape and an acrylic-modified basecoat to all the joints. All the products in the exterior insulation and finish system are supplied by U.S. Gypsum and are designed to work together for the best overall performance.

Once the joint seams have cured for a minimum of four hours, the stucco contractor, McClellan Stucco of Minneapolis, troweled on base coat directly to the cement board surface. The portland cement basecoat was applied to a minimum 1/16-inch thickness and was carefully worked to create a flat surface.

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Bill McClellan of McClellan Stucco said it's important at this stage of the application to ensure that the base coat is applied as smooth and even as possible. The final step in the application happened rather quickly. After stirring the pre-mixed textured finish, the McClellan crew applied a finish layer about 1/16-inch thick. They used USG Exterior Textured Finish, which is a 100-percent acrylic-based finish coat with a sand aggregate. Several textures are available, and the House with Character used a coarse texture. The finish coat was troweled onto the base coat and then floated to the desired stucco look. Once an area of the wall was covered, McClellan said his crew members switched to a plastic float. Using the float, they rubbed the surface to create the final texture.

"You want to keep moving along the wall before the material has a chance to dry. That eliminates cold joints that can occur if the finish material sets for too long," McClellan said. "Then, you clean off the trowel and lightly go over the surface one more time to eliminate any kind of trowel marks or drag marks."

McClellan said the USG system was an excellent choice for the House with Character project. It's easy to work with and will weather the elements well. That's important to the house, which will have to withstand Minnesota's repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

"This system is going to hold up well, too," he added. "It's not going to be as susceptible to taking in moisture and getting a lot of cracks. It has a lot more reinforcement in it, so it's more forgiving than regular stucco as far as cracking. The acrylic-based color and texture will last a long time." 