



JANUARY 2009

The Solares Team would like to wish you a happy and prosperous New Year.

FALL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Solares spent the fall connecting with the local Green Community at the following events:

- Taught Passive Solar Design workshops at The Kortright Centre in Vaughan and The Ecology Retreat Centre in Orangeville
- Partnered with a client for a lecture at Toronto's Upper Canada College to present their new Environmentally Integrated Home™
- Participated in the World House Habitat design charette at Toronto's Institute Without Boundaries
- Presented sustainable design ideas to the community at Toronto's Mountain Equipment Co-op

OUR NEW ADDRESS

1113 College Street
Toronto, ON M6H 1B5

WHAT SOLARES GOT FOR CHRISTMAS

Solares is happy to announce that we have moved into our new office on the ground floor of a converted victorian house near Toronto's Little Italy district. The new space is great and we look forward to working with you here in the future. We renovated in October and November and used environmentally responsible products which were affordable, readily available and attractive. Our favorites are featured below.

Low Water Toilet

We get excited about water efficient toilets so we bought the Aquia Dual Flush by Toto. Using two flush volumes, 3.2 and 6.0 litres, and a vacuum assisted flushing action, it provides a better flush with minimal water use. According to the CMHC, it will reduce our water use by 68% over a standard toilet, and 26% over a single flush low flow toilet. Given that the City of Toronto pumps 1.23 billion litres of treated potable water each day (equivalent to 77 million flushes) it's no surprise that they offer a \$75 rebate on the \$400 sticker price.

Recycled Paint

We painted the walls and ceilings with Boomerang, a recycled latex paint made from unused paint recovered from municipal waste facilities. Diverted from the incinerator, the final product is cleaned, mixed and resold in a range of sixteen colours. The paint is free of harmful volatile organic compounds, common to most conventional paints, because they have off-gassed while in storage. Best of all, it costs \$15 per gallon, approximately half the price of a new high quality low VOC paint.

Local Sustainable Hardwood Floors

For our new conference room, we used prefinished hardwood floors from Nadurra. The wood is locally grown in a Quebec forest that is FSC certified (Forest Stewardship Council). Nadurra has a Chain of Custody Certification and can trace all the steps in the manufacturing process, ensuring both quality and sustainability. Through this system of standards we are assured that the forest which produced our floor will stand to benefit future generations. The material cost was \$4.25 per square foot, a small premium over comparable, non-FSC hardwood flooring.

