

A HARDWORKING SPARE INTERIOR

When the framing and the installation of mechanical systems are complete in a new house and work turns to hanging drywall, it can seem as if there are acres of the paper-faced gypsum boards. This drywall is an essential finish in the crisp, clean, and minimalist interior planned for the ProHOME. There is no crown molding, and instead of casing, the windows have simple drywall returns, although the deep recesses have wood sills to enhance durability. In those places where there is trim, it's unassuming: The painted, three-panel Shaker-style interior doors are trimmed with the same painted 3/16-in. flat stock used for the baseboard.

There are six types of CertainTeed drywall used in the house. While there are the expected products such as Diamondback GlassRoc as tile underlayment, specialized drywall products were chosen to provide sound control, improve indoor-air quality, and add durability in high-traffic areas.

In a small house with open common spaces, it's important to manage noise in the private, away spaces when occupants want to retreat to a quiet refuge. In the second-floor bedrooms and the first-floor flex room (which shares common walls with the powder room and the living room), Guertin will install a noise-reducing drywall: Silent FX QuickCut. The

panels have a viscoelastic polymer in their center to limit sound transmission. Similar types of products frequently have two paper layers in the center surrounding the polymer, and cutting them requires either scoring deeply on each side (slow) or using a handsaw (slow and messy). The Silent FX QuickCut panels are cut by scoring and snapping them, the same as regular drywall.

Wall and ceiling drywall panels in much of the house, including the exterior walls and the ceilings in the rooms with noise-reducing drywall, are AirRenew. The light-blue gypsum core of this drywall product has a unique formulation that sequesters volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as formaldehyde, which is emitted from the glue used in engineered wood products. In addition to AirRenew Essential, a drywall for "regular" duty, other versions of AirRenew that are mold and moisture resistant, abuse and impact resistant, and fire resistant (Type X) are used throughout the house.

In high-traffic areas, more-robust drywall panels provide additional resistance to bumps, knocks, and abrasions. The AirRenew drywall is available in an extreme-abuse version that will be used in the stairwells and in the entry foyer. CertainTeed's new Habito drywall, which is intended to replicate the density and strength of plaster with a drywall panel, will be used on the accent wall



Not a commodity product. After it's been taped, primed, and painted, drywall tends to look like, well, drywall. But bedrooms in the ProHOME have walls that reduce sound transmission and absorb VOCs, thanks to specialized drywall products. The simple drywall returns at the windows celebrate the common material.



Flooring with resale in mind. Reclaimed wood was considered for the flooring because of its character and ability to hide wear; however, the look may be off-putting to some. Carbonized bamboo flooring offers enough grain pattern and character to mask scuffs, and it has wider appeal.

between the living room and the flex room and on the pantry wall facing the dining room because flat-screen TVs and other items likely will be hung on these walls. Habito is able to hold a 30-lb. load with a single #10 screw. For items such as shelf brackets or TV brackets that use six #10 screws, the drywall is rated to hold 180 lb. without screwing into blocking or studs. It also will be used in the garage, so installing hooks or shelving wherever it's convenient will be easy.

In contrast to the clean, spare white walls, the floors will be covered with warm-toned wood. Guertin has chosen carbonized bamboo planks with uniform grain and enough character to hide wear and tear. For a rental/spec house, the wall and floor options make sense. With a single color throughout the house and little trim, it's easy to refresh the walls with a coat of paint, and the flooring gains more character with use and hides abuse well.

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