

BY ROE OSBORN



## One Home in One Week for One Family

**On the first day** of fall this year, the Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Cape Cod and the Cape Cod chapter of Habitat for Humanity teamed up for an amazing feat called “Blitz Build ’15.” In five short days, a small army of professional volunteers took a house from a bare first-floor deck to a C.O. and a “ready to move in” home.

The house was the last started of a cluster of seven homes in the town of Harwich, but it would be the first finished. It was my second Blitz, and as an associate member of the builders’ group, my volunteer work was with a camera, documenting the progress and shooting a time-lapse video (view it at [jlconline.com](http://jlconline.com)).

Day one began with Matt Anderson’s crew buzzing through the framing like a swarm of bees (1). They had panelized the exterior walls, so these only needed to be lifted and set in place. As soon as the first-floor walls were up, a crew inside began insulating. Meanwhile, plumbers, electricians, and HVAC folks started their rough-in.

The next morning I arrived on site just before sunrise, and one of the project coordinators was already

there with all the lights turned on inside, making the shell look like home after less than 24 hours (2). By noon, the roof was shingled, and two crews were running siding. Inside, the rough-in was done and the plasterers were already hanging board (3).

On day three, crews installed the prefinished bamboo flooring and the interior trim. Outside, a gaggle of painters puttied, caulked, and painted the exterior trim. The kitchen cabinets arrived midday and were installed by the end of the day.

The landscapers did their thing on day four while outside odds and ends were tended to. Inside, crews painted and finished trimming while the plumbers, electricians, and HVAC crews finished up. On the final day (Friday), the punch list included a blower-door test and final inspection. A dedication ceremony took place the next day (4) and the keys were given to the new owners. The finished home stands as a testament to the dozens of workers who gave countless hours for this great cause.

*Roe Osborn is a senior editor at JLC.*

Photos by Roe Osborn