

residential architect

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family

the homes for habitat design awards /
a winner looks back / ready rooms /
domesticating logs / a wright choice

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contents



On the cover: Homes for Habitat winners Arunas Rumsa, AIA, (seated) and John Allegretti, AIA; and homeowners Mary McGhee (standing) and Florence Blake. Photographed by Katherine Lambert. Photo above by Charles Steck.

from the editor... page 11

home front... page 14

Carson Looney's blueprint for success / Sage words /
Table talent / Cooper-Hewitt's national design triennial /
Eichler's architect / San Juan goes for the Golden

perspective... page 20

Last year's Homes for Habitat winner says designing affordable housing is as good for your practice as it is for your soul.

cover story:
homes for habitat
design awards... page 25

Our second annual design awards contest benefitting
Habitat for Humanity International.

by Meghan Drueding and Ann Marie Moriarty



a home for habitat... page 26

The winning design, by John Allegretti and Arunas Rumsa, Allegretti Architects, St. Joseph, Mich.



second place... page 34

Britt Halsell, Hal Thomas Reid & Associates, Architects



citations of merit... page 38

Vince Linarello, Vince Linarello Architect
Everett Seven and Steven Ehrlich, Burnstead Construction Co.



honorable mentions... page 42

Carl de Miguez and Robin Barker, Moburg Epstein Architects
David E. Grass, P/D Architects



Edward A. Smith III, Bernard "Tut" Bartzen Jr., Patrick W. McClane,
Sarah G. Barber, Megan McIrvin, and Frank Nagle, Marcellus Wright
Cox & Smith Architects



J. Kent Williams and John F. Heltzel, John F. Heltzel AIA
Wayne L. Good, Brian W. Bassindale, Laura Kaupp, and David
Mallon, Good/Architecture

off the shelf... page 70

Ready rooms that bring the outdoors in.

doctor spec... page 72

When it comes to log homes, they don't build 'em like they used to, fortunately.

hands on... page 76

Designing a deck that doesn't block the view.

great houses... page 88

Eric Lloyd Wright applies his grandfather's Usonian concepts to his own work.



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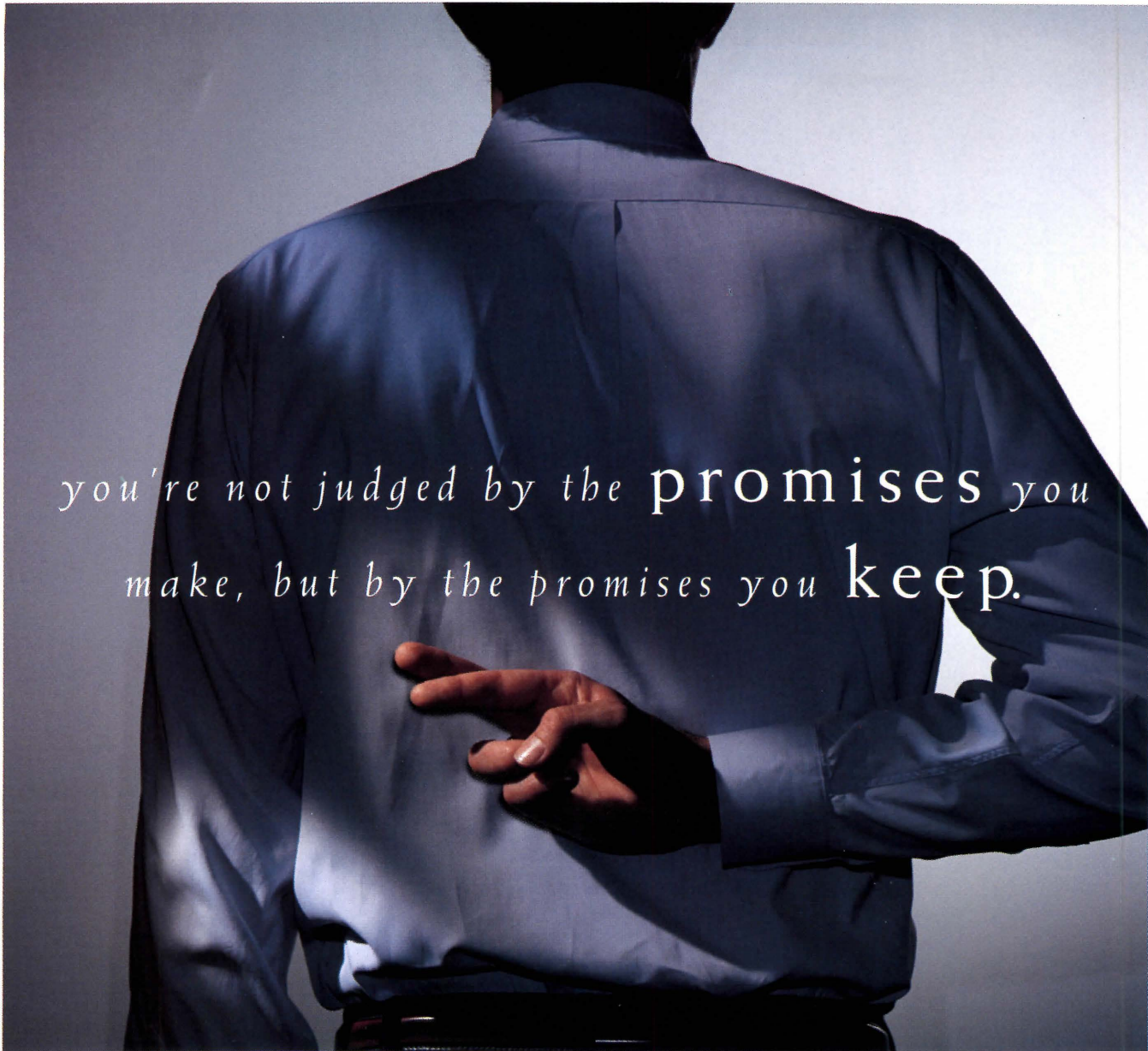
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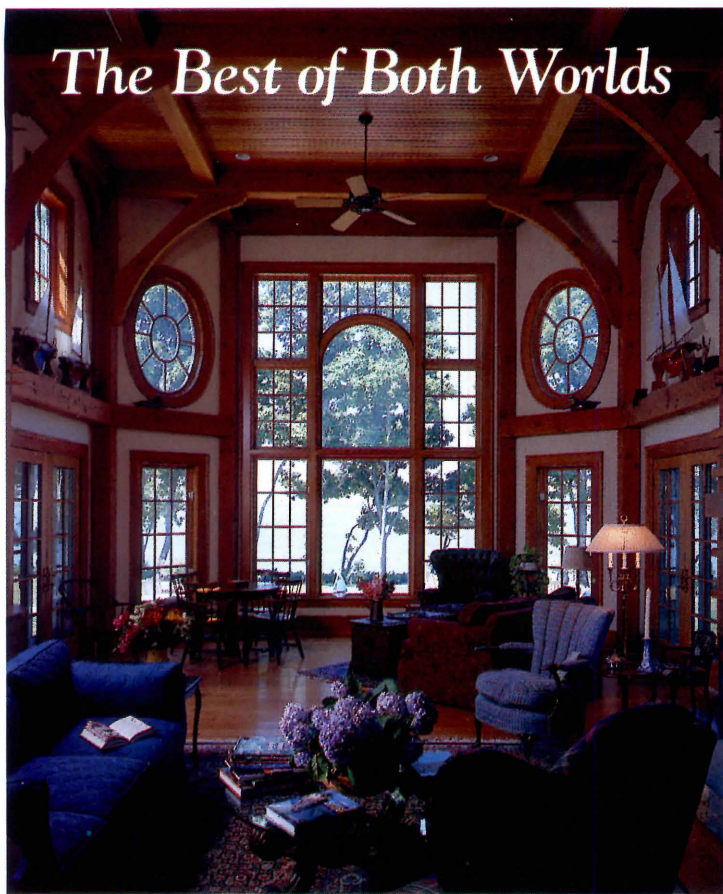


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S. Claire Conroy / Editor / 202.736.3312 / cconroy@hanley-wood.com

Judy H. Neighbor / Art Director / 202.736.3331 / jneighbor@hanley-wood.com

Amy Doherty / Managing Editor / 202.736.3442 / adoherty@hanley-wood.com

Meghan Drueding / Associate Editor / 202.736.3344 / mdruedin@hanley-wood.com

Hillary Jaffe / Assistant Editor / 202.736.3407 / hjaffe@hanley-wood.com

Kristina K. Goings / Graphic Designer

Karen Fulcher / Production Manager

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Editorial and Advertising Offices:

One Thomas Circle, N.W., Suite 600

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Phone 202.452.0800 / Fax 202.785.1974

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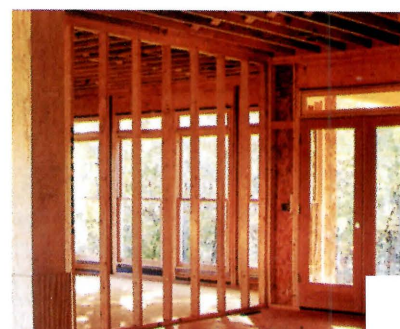


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HouseWrap

from the editor

the good life

the “haves” have more while the “have nots” have even less.

by s. claire conroy

never before have so many Americans been so rich. The number of million-dollar households increased by more than 100 percent in the '90s, and the momentum is still going strong. Low unemployment, low interest rates, low inflation, and a sky-high stock market promise an extended run of prosperity. This flow of good fortune has boosted many boats indeed, but there remain quite a few it's barely touched at all. The rich may be getting richer, but the poor are still losing ground.

the basics

The poorest fifth of Americans have an average annual income of \$13,000—one-tenth of the richest fifth's average \$137,500, according to a recent Center on Budget and Policy Priorities report. The good life is still way out of reach for this group and the many others who struggle to satisfy even the most basic needs for food, clothing, shelter. Once these are secured, homeownership is an even bigger chasm to leap. Just ask Mary McGhee.

McGhee, 55, has a full-time job as a housekeeper

in Lothian, Md. It's paid for the rental house she's lived in with her family for the last 27 years—a house with no running water. Nearly three years ago, she applied for a new house through her local Anne Arundel County chapter of Habitat for Humanity International. While the chapter searched for a suitable site, McGhee put in her required 500 sweat equity hours on two Arundel Habitat houses.

a new plan

Cleaning other people's houses during the week and building other people's houses on the weekend underscored McGhee's desire for a safe, clean house of her own. But by the time her house came through the pipeline, it was a little different from the ones she'd worked on. McGhee received an architect-designed plan through our annual Habitat for Humanity Design Awards program, co-sponsored by APA—The Engineered Wood Association, Habitat for Humanity International, Premier Building Systems, Andersen Windows, and Whirlpool Corp.

The winning design, by John Allegretti, AIA, and Arunas Rumsa, AIA, of St. Joseph, Mich.-based Allegretti Architects, was



Photo: Katherine Lambert

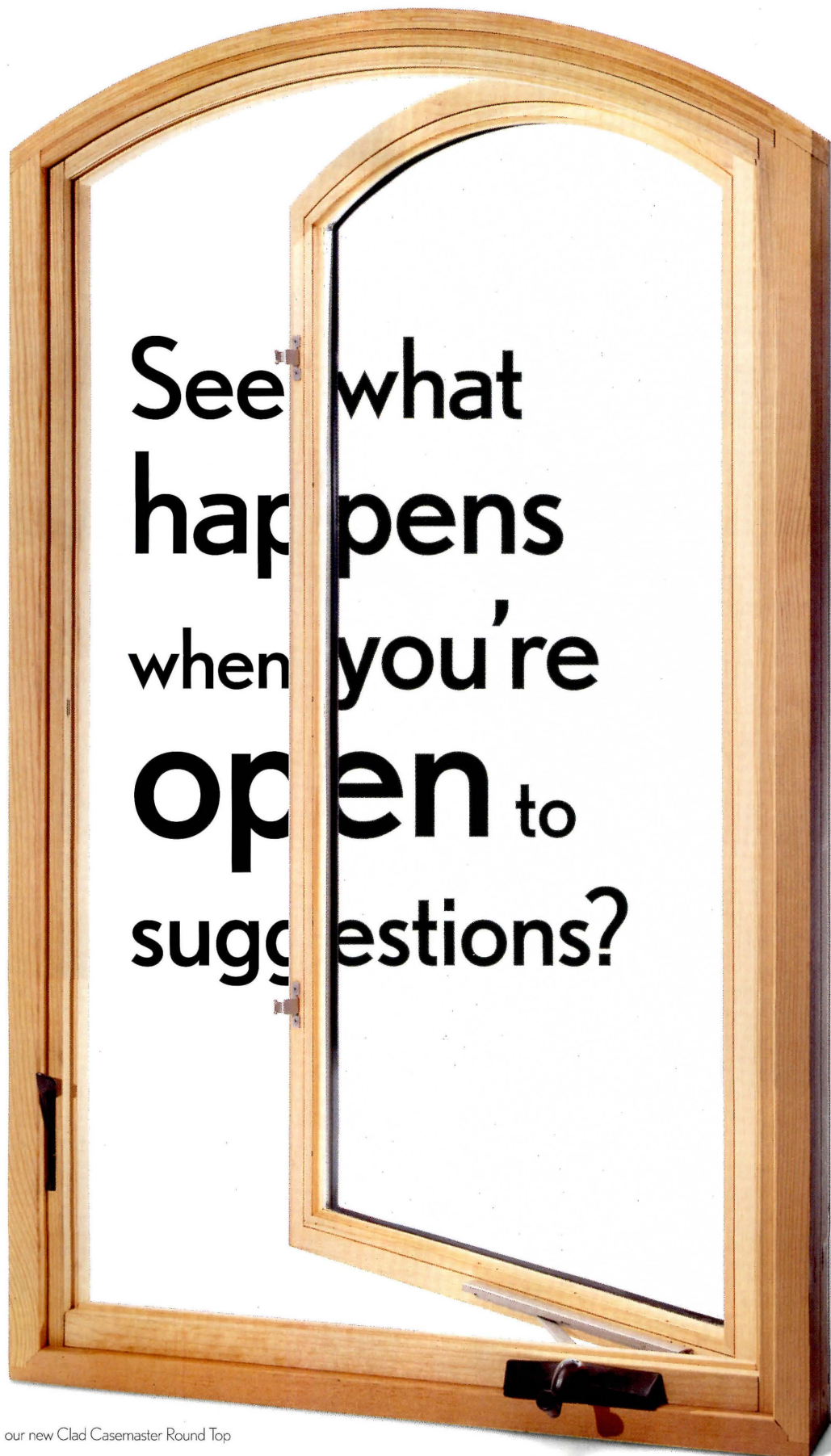
constructed last November during a week-long “blitz build” nationally televised on CBS' “The Early Show.” This year's competition drew more than 100 entries from architects across the United States (coverage of winning entries begins on page 25). They all had the same assignment: Design a single-level structure with four bedrooms and one and one-half baths, living space of no more than 1,176 square feet, and hard costs not to exceed \$36 a square foot. Plans had to employ structural insulated panels (SIPs) and meet energy-efficiency criteria set by the government's Energy Star Homes Program.

All entries to the competition become the property of Habitat for Humanity

International, increasing the quality of the organization's portfolio of affordable home plans.

Allegretti, who once volunteered for the Peace Corps, couldn't be happier that his sweat equity hours helped Mary McGhee secure her share of the good life. After all, it's what his work as a residential architect does for each of his clients. His well-designed homes make each of their lives a little richer. **ra**

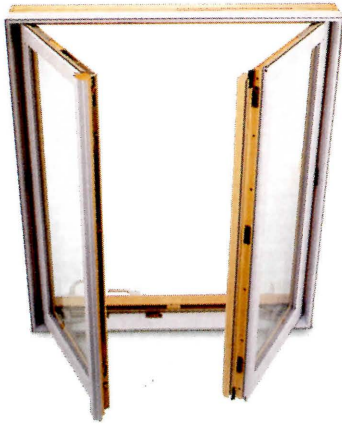
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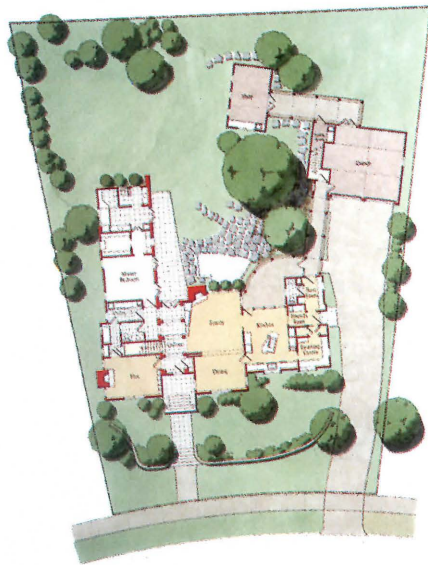
Carson Looney's experience in winning the commission for *Better Homes and Gardens'* Blueprints 2000 house demonstrates the powerful marketing value of public speaking. The Memphis, Tenn.-based principal of Looney Ricks Kiss Architects gave a design lecture at a builders' conference in San Francisco several years ago. A BH&G editor happened to be in the audience and tapped Looney shortly thereafter to design the magazine's Y2K show house in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Finished in June 1999, the home features an up-to-the-minute home networking system, compliance with the principles of universal design, and an answer to home buyers' ever-rising cry for flexible space. And it employs a wide variety of synthetic products (balanced with some "high-

touch" luxury materials) to satisfy consumers' demand for a low-maintenance home. But, Looney points out with conviction, the Blueprints 2000 home isn't so avant-garde as to scare off buyers. "We wanted to push the envelope, but not so much that we left the magazine's readers behind," he says. "If you want to guide the marketplace and show them what you can do with a house, you have to present it in a form that's user-friendly. It had to be a home where people would want to live."

Evidently, it is. The 3,000-square-foot home, built by local duo Mark Kirby and Brian Dixon, sold for its (undisclosed) asking price a month after it went on the market. Looney and project designer Rob Carleton's plan is still available and can be obtained by calling 800.454.6506.

—meghan drueding



Blueprints 2000's set-back garage, covered entrance, and friendly front walkway complement its context, the traditional neighborhood development of Southern Village, in Chapel Hill, N.C. Inside, a not-so-traditional element: The family room's 42-inch flat-screen TV doubles as a computer monitor.

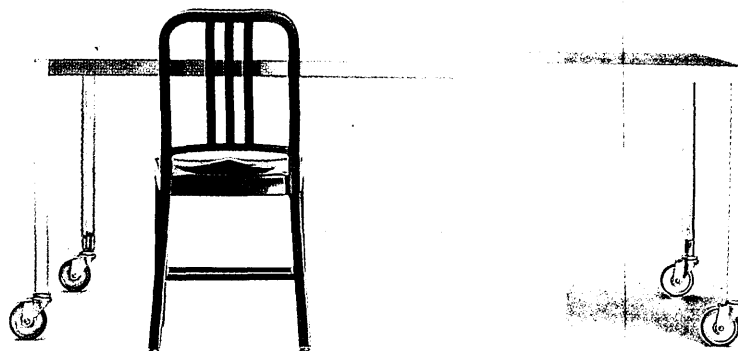


Photos: Geoffrey Gross Photography



table talent

new York City-based architects Peter Gluck



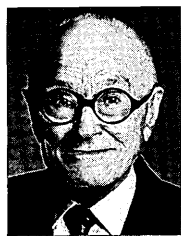
Courtesy Susan Grant Lewin Associates

and Walter Chatham join the growing number of architects designing objects for the mass market. Both have designed tables for furniture company The ICF Group. Gluck's Gateleg Table, which folds into a streamlined rectangle for storage, works especially well in small or multi-purpose spaces. ICF's wood furnishings division, Helikon, produces the table in maple, cherry, and walnut; an aluminum version is also available.

Prices start at \$2,700. The Broome Street Table (above), which Chatham created with furniture designer Mary Adams, features locking wheels for easy mobility—and stability. Manufactured for ICF by Emeco, it's made of welded aluminum with an anodized finish. Chatham's 29-inch-high table comes in two sizes: 60 by 18 inches, which retails for \$1,615, and 72 by 36 inches, priced at \$2,378.—*m.d.*

advice from the top

Frank Gehry and Philip Johnson each shared some of their secrets to gaining creative respect and financial fulfillment during recent speaking engagements in Washington, D.C. Johnson spoke at the National Museum of Natural History; Gehry at the National Building Museum. Some notable quotes:



Greg Gotman



© David C. Levy

johnson:

"[Designing buildings] is more fun than eating. It's more fun than you know what."

"Never tell a client to stick it."

"I believe that art is the only important thing we have. I believe art keeps me alive, and I believe art keeps the world alive."

gehry:

"The difference between what I do and what Richard Serra does is that he doesn't have to punch the damn holes in it."

"I show the clients everything. And I always work on more than one model."

"It's good to be good friends with the roofing guys."

—*theresa coleman*

"you have to present
[the design] in a
form that's user-friendly.
it has to be a home
where people would
want to live."

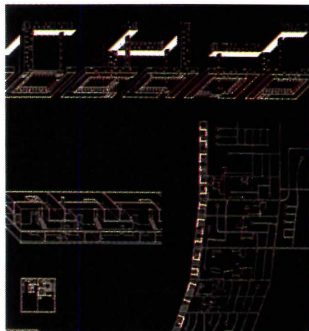
—*j. carson looney*

calendar

edge of a city: work by steven holl

through february 20
san francisco museum of
modern art

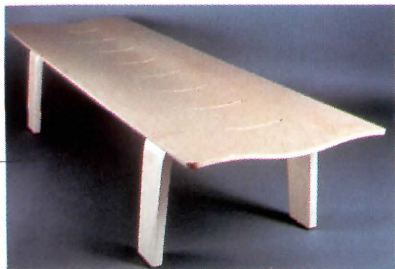
A display of the critically acclaimed architect's ideas for countering the effects of urban sprawl, including this 1989 concept for a Phoenix project. Call 415.397.4000 for details, or check out www.sfmoma.org.



Courtesy San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

national design triennial

march 7–august 6



Courtesy ECCO

cooper-hewitt national
design museum,
new york city

A comprehensive look at American architecture, product design, and graphic design. Shown: Ecco's "Wave" bench, 1999. Call 212.849.8300 for exhibit details.

custom home 2000

march 17–18
georgia world congress center, atlanta

This expo and conference for the custom-home building industry is sponsored by CUSTOM HOME, BUILDER, and *residential architect* magazines. To sign up, call 1.800.837.0870, ext. 2653.



kitchen/bath industry show

april 7–9
mccormick place, chicago

More than 600 exhibitors—including Ann Sacks Tile & Stone, whose Soho Kitchen line (left) will be shown—are expected to showcase their latest kitchen and bath products at the National Kitchen & Bath Association's annual show. To register, visit www.kbis.com, or call 800.367.6522.



Glen Aga

making affordable housing a reality and CONSTRUMA 2000

april 11–15
budapest, hungary

The National Association of Home Builders will hold its first-ever international conference during CONSTRUMA, Central and Eastern Europe's largest construction industry trade show. The conference will focus on the issue of designing and developing affordable housing all over the world. For more information, call 202.861.2179.



Bill Phelps

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may 2–5
orange county convention
center, orlando, fla.

For information on one of the world's leading ceramic tile and natural stone expositions, visit www.coverings.com, or call 800.881.9400. Internationally known architect Michael Graves (left) will deliver the keynote address at this year's conference.

132nd annual national aia convention and expo

may 4–7
pennsylvania convention center, philadelphia

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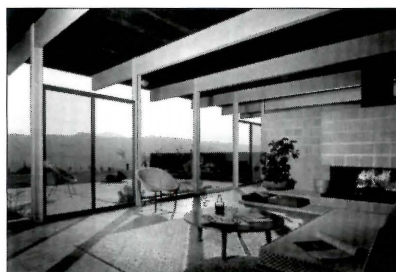
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CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

WHEN	THE EVENT	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
MARCH 9-11	California AIBD Convention	Monterey, California	The 40th Annual AIBD California Society Conference will feature seminars on architectural photography and interior design, architectural tours, wine tasting and design awards over a weekend on the beautiful Monterey Peninsula. Contact Catherine Mulcahy at aibdcal@aol.com.
MARCH 23-25	Excellence In Design/Build and the Borderless Market	Toronto, Canada	This conference will bring together architects, engineers, designers, constructors and owners to study issues relating to the design/build delivery system, emerging trends, and specific building types. Contact www.e-architect.com.
MARCH 25	Missouri/Kansas AIBD Meeting	Wichita, Kansas	"Where We Are Now & Plans for the Future": The State of Registration for National Council of Building Designer Certification (NCBDC). This seminar will provide an overview of the Certified Professional Building Designer (CPBD) designation. Contact www.ncbdc.com.
MARCH 30	What To Do When They Want "Spanish"	Montgomery, Alabama	An exploration of visual tools which can be used early in the design process to stimulate creative interaction with clients about aesthetic issues. Contact Brenda Callahan at aaronhornsby@aol.com.
MARCH 31	Historic Preservation and Adaptive Reuse	Savannah, Georgia	This 2-day program includes tours of museum houses and adaptive reuse buildings as well as lectures on historic preservation and period furnishing. Contact Carl Gerken, AIA at cgerkenaia@aol.com.

modern legacy

California builder-developer Joseph Eichler gained well-deserved fame for his efforts in the 1950s to bring Modern houses to the middle class. But he couldn't have done it without the help of architect Robert Anshen, of the San Francisco firm



Ernie Braun/Courtesy Eichler Network Archives

project for the renegade builder, Sunnyvale Manor II, in Sunnyvale, Calif., opened 50 years ago this month.

Sunnyvale Manor II set the standard

Anshen + Allen.

Anshen was the first architect signed on by Eichler; his first



Courtesy Anshen & Allen

for the now-celebrated innovative, affordable Eichler dwelling. Anshen designed a 1,044-square-foot floor plan priced at \$9,500, including appliances. The plan featured a flat roof, three bedrooms, and a floor-to-ceiling glass back wall. Using Anshen's recommendation of post-and-beam construction with exposed wood panels, Eichler was able to build the 51 homes quickly and sturdily—and to give his bold buyers high quality coupled

Robert Anshen, left, and his partner Steve Allen in the early 1960s. Eichler homes are known for their open, light-filled interiors (below left).

with great livability.

The 1950 project marked the begin-

ning of a long and fruitful partnership between Eichler and Anshen. Their work was an important influence on merchant-built housing across the country, and it showed builders how fundamental architects' work truly is. Today, Anshen + Allen is an award-winning firm with one London and three U.S. offices; thanks to the cultlike status its founder's designs have attained, Joseph Eichler's legacy won't be forgotten.—*m.d.*

going for the golden

Sasaki Associates, Watertown, Mass., is developing a master plan for the \$500-million redevelopment of the Waterfront Golden Triangle district in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The 108-acre site is slated to contain four blocks of high-end, high-rise condominiums. Plans also include a convention center, a water-taxi channel, cruise ship terminals, recreation and entertainment areas, office and retail space, and a world trade center.

According to Manuel Sanchez-Ruiz, AIA, senior associate at Sasaki and one of the project's designers, the average condo unit size will be 1,500 square feet. Amenities will include two-



Courtesy Sasaki Associates

car parking for each apartment and a swimming pool and a tennis court over the parking decks. The big bonus: beautiful views of the Canal de San Antonio, the Atlantic Ocean, and San Juan itself. Price estimates per unit have not yet been established.

"The redevelopment of the site is intended to promote trade for the island region," says Daniel Kenny, AIA, principal at Sasaki, "making Puerto Rico a center for commerce in the Caribbean and a link between the economies of the Americas." The first phase of the Golden Triangle development is scheduled for completion in August 2002.—*hillary jaffe*



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low-end luxury

for 1998's homes for habitat winner,

million-dollar mansions and budget bungalows hold equal value.

by edward m. binkley, aia

I have read that many architects feel their biggest challenge lies in designing high-end custom houses. I beg to differ, at least to a certain extent.

I've designed a broad range of housing types over the past 20 years, from 600-square-foot garden hamlets to 14,000-square-foot mansions. The majority of my residential work consists of custom luxury homes with budgets as high as \$500 a square foot.

If you're in a similar boat and are looking for a new challenge, try your hand at an affordable home. It gives you a chance to apply the lessons you've learned designing luxury homes in a new way—and it will change the way you look at the work you do every day.

If the opportunity isn't there with the right client, you could try entering one

designing affordable housing can have a positive influence on all aspects of a residential practice.



Frank W. Young, F. Winfield Group

Whether they're small affordable cottages or 7,500-square-foot custom mansions like this one in Mount Juliet, Tenn., Binkley's designs exude charm and comfort. All clients deserve a bit of luxury in their homes, he says.

of the many affordable-design competitions out there. I've won awards in two, including one sponsored by this magazine, the 1998 Homes for Habitat Ultimate Design Challenge. I entered each of these in part to see if I could implement my high-end design

experience in these low-budget design programs.

All clients deserve a bit of luxury in their homes, no matter what the budget. And if we architects can't find it for them, we're not doing our jobs.

space solutions

For the Habitat house, I incorporated several design features that may be standard items in a custom home but are something of a perk in a lower-end home.

On the first floor, I put to use nearly all of the under-the-stair space. The stair's elongated U shape allowed

me to fit a short hallway and powder room underneath it; the front side, facing the living room, houses built-ins for the TV, accessories, and books. In the dining area, I worked a built-in dining booth into the plan. I wasn't sure if the homeowner would have a dining room table, and it made good use of a small space. In a custom home, a built-in booth is considered a novelty item and one that can add a bit of uniqueness to a breakfast room—same idea for each, just different motives and budgets. Near

continued on page 22

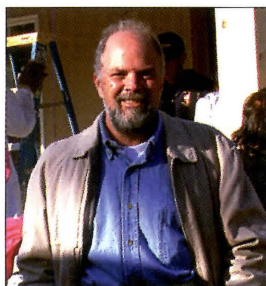


Photo: Philip Jensen-Carter



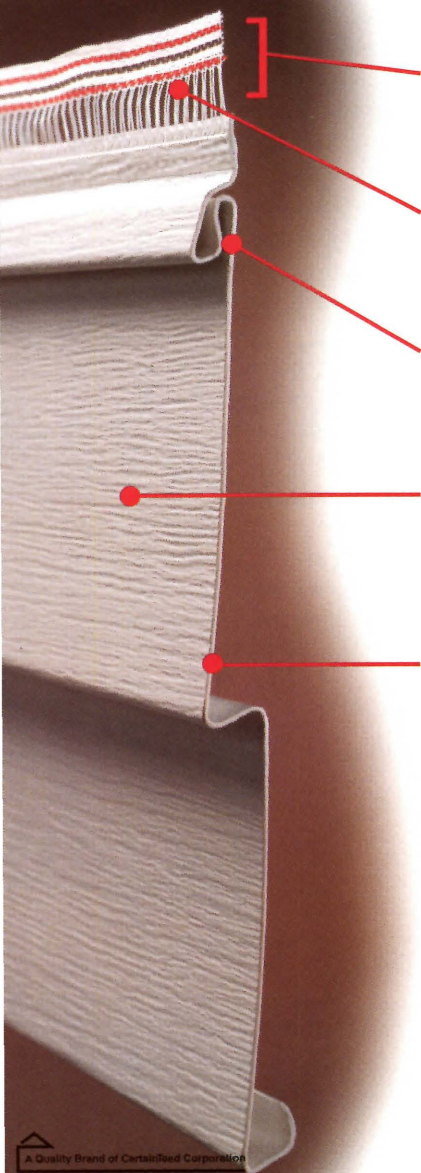
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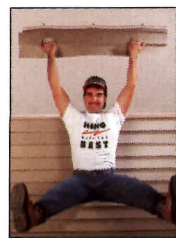
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the back door, I designed a drop-off niche containing shelves for lunch boxes, pegs for coats and hats, and bins for play shoes.

On the second floor, a built-in homework/hobby/computer area captures space at the top of the stairs and overlooks the first floor. In the main bathroom nearby, I tried to solve potential morning bottlenecks by separating the lavatory from the sink area, allowing two people to get ready for school or work at once. Again, neither of these is a big luxury—unless you're living in a 1,200-square-foot house with four other people.

A final touch was built-in bunk beds and shelves in the two secondary bedrooms. Each consisted of two 4x4 posts, a couple of ledgers on the walls, and a little bit of plywood and paint. Suddenly, we had customized, built-in beds with minimal expenditure.

All of these features are

fairly common in an upper-end home. They may be finished out using more expensive materials, but the concept is still the same. Every homeowner likes the idea of having “custom-designed” features, and they don't always have to be high-dollar items.

idea list

Another way to economize creatively is to use industrial materials as finished surfaces. Inexpensive bamboo or maple-laminated plywood can be cut into 16-inch-wide strips, divided

by terrazzo bars, and sealed with four or five coats of polyurethane for a beautiful floor surface in a low-end home. It can be done at a fraction of the cost of hardwood, and you can omit the terrazzo bars if the budget is too tight. The same holds true for stained concrete or even sealed OSB. The results can be very pleasing to both custom and lower-budget clients, and they both appreciate the cost savings.

In addition to clever, economical design details, affordable housing requires some innovative thinking *inside* the box. A design charrette our firm did recently for a builder in Flat Rock, N.C., had one of the most original programs I've seen. The project, located in a fairly affluent market, is a sustainable vacation/retirement community with vegetable gardens, a woodworking shop, and its own restaurant. Part of the program was to design an affordable 600-square-foot starter cot-

tage—the client called it “the yeast”—and to plan several flex options that could enable it to grow to around 2,000 square feet. The “Garden Hamlets” can be constructed largely off site using modular building systems, drastically reducing costs as well as the noise and inconvenience to existing residents of a lengthy build. I think this is a good example of a client who's concerned about all of the right things.

Even if you're just looking for a brief change of pace, low-end luxury may get you hooked. Try it—you'll see that designing affordable housing can have a positive influence on all aspects of a residential practice. **ra**

Ed Binkley, AIA, took first place in 1998's Homes for Habitat competition and served as a judge for the 1999 contest, the results of which are featured in this issue. He is design director of Bloodgood Sharp Buster's Tampa, Fla., office.



Part of a sustainable vacation/retirement community in Flat Rock, N.C., these “Garden Hamlets” (above and below) can be built—and, later, expanded—largely off site using modular building systems, drastically reducing costs and inconvenience.





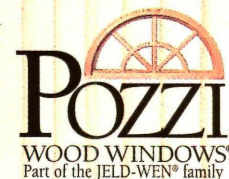
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the homes *for* habitat design awards

architects from across the country
competed to design a Habitat for Humanity house
for a Lothian, Md., family.

*f*or Mary McGhee's family, their substandard house in Lothian, Md., was not just an inconvenience in their lives, it was a significant impediment to their good health and happiness. Every day, McGhee, a domestic helper, went to work in other people's houses, only to come home to her own house without running water. Today, McGhee and her family live in a new, safe, energy-efficient house designed by architects John Allegretti, AIA, and Arunas Rumsa, AIA, of Allegretti Architects.

The St. Joseph, Mich.-based architects won first place in our second annual Homes for Habitat Design Awards competition, co-sponsored by APA—The Engineered Wood Association, Habitat for Humanity International, Premier Building Systems, Andersen Windows, and Whirlpool Corp. Their winning design was constructed last November during a week-long "blitz build" nationally televised on CBS' "The Early Show."

This year's competition drew more than 100 entries from architects across the United States. Their charge was to design a single-level structure with four bedrooms and one and one-half baths, living space



Katherine Lambert
Architects John Allegretti (left) and Arunas Rumsa, of St. Joseph, Mich., stand in front of their award-winning design, which was built in one week by volunteers.

of no more than 1,176 square feet, and hard costs not to exceed \$36 a square foot.

Designs had to employ structural insulated panels (SIPs) and meet energy-efficiency criteria set by the government's Energy Star Homes Program. Judging the competition were Nevil Eastwood, director of construction for Habitat for Humanity International, Americus, Ga.; last year's winner, Ed Binkley, AIA, design director of Bloodgood Sharp Buster Architects and Planners' Tampa, Fla., office; Randy Luther, vice president of research and development, Centex Homes, Dallas; and Steve Thompson, of Premier Building Systems, Fife, Wash.

Allegretti and Rumsa's design earned our first-place award for its pleasing elevations so appropriate for the home's rural location and for the hardworking floor plan that eliminated hallways and put the square footage where it matters most. Mary McGhee earned her house through hundreds of hours of sweat equity work with her local Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Anne Arundel County. Founded in 1976 by Millard Fuller, Habitat for Humanity International expects to build its 100,000th home this September.

St. Joseph, Mich.-based architects
John Allegretti and Arunas Rumsa
won first place in *residential architect's*
design challenge.

by meghan drueding

the home John Allegretti, AIA, designed for *residential architect's* 1999 Homes for Habitat Design Awards may stand in Lothian, Md. But its roots are in Benton Harbor, Mich.; Shenandoah, Iowa; Black Mountain and Davidson, N.C.—and Western Samoa, in the South Pacific. The first three are the sites of other low-income housing projects he and design partner Arunas Rumsa, AIA, have created; Western Samoa is where Allegretti once worked as an architect in the Peace Corps, designing homes for families in need. And, like many architects, he derived a considerable amount of inspiration from his mother's house—that's the Davidson part of the equation.



All photos by Charles Steck, except where noted.

tall order

For Allegretti and Rumsa, principals of Allegretti Architects, in St. Joseph, Mich., the decision to enter Homes for Habitat was a no-brainer. "We'd designed Habitat houses before," Rumsa says. "Seventy-five percent of

our work is high-end residential, so tight-budget projects provide a good reality check. There's not a lot of room to get caught up in elevated theory."

He's got that right. This year's competition challenged entrants to design a one-story Habitat for Humanity home no larger than 1,176 square feet. The house had to contain four bedrooms and one and one-half baths, and it had to keep hard costs to \$36 per square foot or less. Further stipulations included a covered front porch, a small rear deck, and a crawl-space foundation. The plan would house a multigenerational family consisting of domestic helper Mary McGhee, 55; her friend Florence Blake, 79; McGhee's daughter, medical assistant and nursing night-school student Pamela Anderson, 36; and Anderson's daughter Rayniece Franklin, 14. It also had to meet energy-efficiency standards set by the Energy Star Homes Program, a voluntary partnership between the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, product manufacturers, local utilities, and retailers. Finally, the home had to incorporate structural insulated panels (SIPs), an affordable alternative to stick-built construction that would allow



a home for



Habitat volunteers took five days to build this four-bedroom cottage (above) on an abandoned lot (left and below) in Lothian, Md.

Katherine Lambert

habitat



a home for habitat

a team of Habitat volunteers to assemble the home in short order during a nationally televised, five-day "blitz build." Hosting the television coverage for CBS' "The Early Show" would be Bob Vila, the home improvement guru and, like Allegretti, a Peace Corps veteran.

open season

Allegretti and Rumsa used the knowledge they gained from their experiences in affordable-home design to come up with a fairly standard plan for a four-bedroom cottage. A central hall led from the public spaces in the



front of the plan to the bedrooms in back. "It was OK," Allegretti says of their original plan, "but there was too much wasted space. We decided to put the great room in the center and get rid of the hallway altogether." That move alone was enough to grab the attention of the competition's judges, who remarked on the way the plan balances public and private spaces while making the most of limited square footage.

In addition, Allegretti and Rumsa chose to leave out an attic storage space. "The bedrooms all have good-sized closets, and the crawl space underneath the house pro-



vides extra room for storage," Allegretti says. "We thought it was more important to take the opportunity the SIPs gave us to create an economical, high-volume ceiling for the great room." The sloped, 15-foot-high ceiling was a big hit with the judges. "It gives you a lot of bang for your buck," said one. And it had its practical benefits, too. The omission of a conventional ceiling meant lower material and construction costs. It also ensured that the house's residents wouldn't have to deal with the common homeowner problem of attic condensation and mildew. Another time- and money-saving step: leaving the kitchen open to the central living area. The loftlike arrangement allows residents in both rooms to interact with one another, and brings extra sunlight into each space.

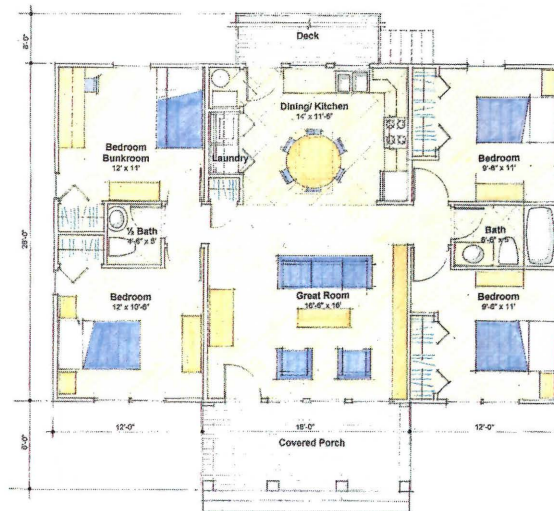
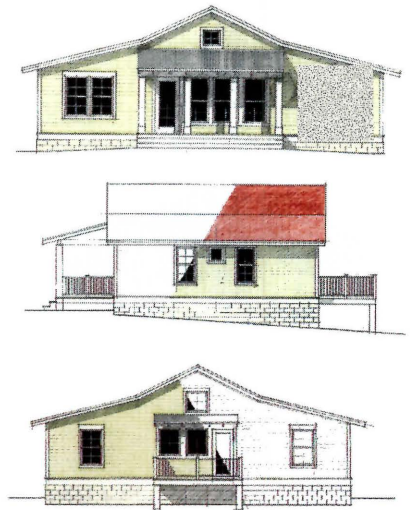
On the outside, the plan impressed the



Far left, top (from left): Judges Randy Luther, Ed Binkley, Steve Thompson, and Nevil Eastwood chose the winning plan. Other key players included (beneath judges, from left) R.B. Belch, Terry Nader, Beth Broderick, and Linda Gray, all of Arundel Habitat, and the home's owners, Mary McGhee and Florence Blake.

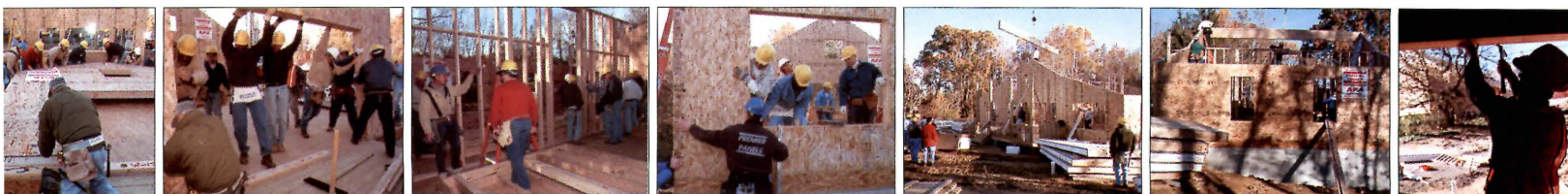
"tight-budget projects provide a good reality check. there's not a lot of room to





The project's straightforward floor plan and simple front and rear elevations helped minimize construction complications.

et caught up in elevated theory.”—arunas rumsa, aia



a home for habitat

judges with its relevance to its rural site in Lothian, 15 minutes from Annapolis, Md. (Part of the judging process included a trip out to the deeply sloped site, occupied at the time by the charred shell of a 200-year-old abandoned house.) Allegetti's entry, with its horizontally applied vinyl-siding walls, gently pitched roof, and clean-lined floor plan, fit in easily with the area's barns and farmhouses and made for a nice counterpart to the white clapboard church across the street. Even the colors he and Rumsa picked—light green siding and white trim—meshed well with the mostly yellow and white exteriors of the neighbor-

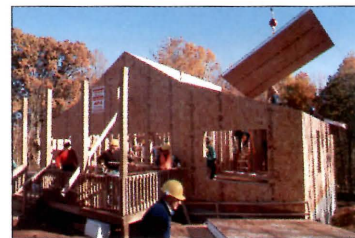
hood's existing homes. In accordance with contest parameters, the covered front porch adds a friendly touch to the plan's front elevation. And the small window above it injects a playful note into the composition.

fast forward

Construction on the house began Monday, November 8. (A concrete-block foundation had been pre-installed the week before.) About 300 volunteers from Habitat's local Anne Arundel County affiliate; Habitat's headquarters, Habitat for Humanity International, in Americus, Ga.; and many of the sponsoring

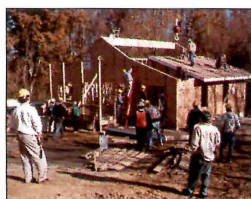
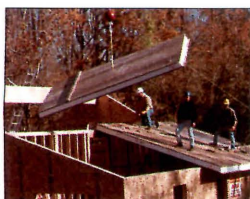
companies and associations participated in the build during the course of the week. Directed by the affiliate's construction manager, R.B. Belch, the crew stayed right on schedule. "The trickiest part was setting the wells and septic tanks into the slope," he says. "But we had a beautiful plan and site to work with." According to framing supervisor John Narer, the floor plan's simple geometry worked in the builders' favor. "Because there are essentially two private wings, we were never in each other's way," he says. "When we finished putting up the SIPs on one side, the electricians and plumbing people were free to do their thing while we put up the other side."

With the help of sponsoring manufacturers, the home did achieve an Energy Star rating. Its low-E-glazed windows, donated by Andersen Windows, are also tilt-wash, so



The volunteers' high-speed effort got a major boost from the use of standard-sized SIPs, which the architects' design accommodated.

"the trickiest part was setting the wells and septic tanks into the slope. but we ha





Home building guru Bob Vila (in red vest) hosted TV coverage of the build on CBS' "The Early Show." Asphalt shingles (below, left and right) provided a cost-effective roofing solution.



beautiful plan and site to work with." —r.b. belch, construction manager



a home for habitat

both sides can be washed from inside the house. "We thought the tilt-wash windows made sense for a multigenerational family," says Stacy Einck of Andersen. "They're much easier to clean for someone who's short on time or agility." Whirlpool Corp. contributed an Energy Star-compliant refrigerator and range. And SIPs are both energy efficient and environmentally friendly. The OSB sheets that form the panels' outer skin are made of wood from fast-growing crop trees, not old-growth timber. The EPS (expanded polystyrene) that makes up their middle layer is recyclable and emission free.

"The Habitat house's 6-inch walls have a steady R-value of 23," says Kevin Hayes, spokesperson for sponsor Premier Panels. "The R-value of an average 2x6 stud wall, when tested in the same conditions as SIPs, goes down to about 13." The

design of the house itself also reduces energy consumption—its open interior permits both heated and cooled air from a heat pump to circulate freely and efficiently.

just rewards

A diverse crowd of well-wishers gathered on November 12 to see R.B. Belch hand Mary McGhee the key to her new home. "It's so important to show other families that they can do this too," said attendee



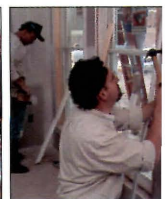
Virginia Clagett, Anne Arundel County's representative to the Maryland House of Delegates. "Hopefully, the publicity Mary's story generates will encourage more people in need of homes to come forward." Arundel Habitat's chapter president Rusty Porter agreed. "We'll never know just how many people this build affects."

One whom it affected quite directly was the exhausted and elated McGhee, who had put in well over the required 500 "sweat equity" hours on this and other Habitat projects. Moving in was a homecoming of sorts: The house is a stone's throw from her former elementary school. But she and her family weren't thinking about the past—they had their thoughts fixed firmly on the present. "We've waited a long time for this," she said. "I'm ready to get out of the old and into the new." *ra*



The house is clad with low-maintenance, affordable vinyl siding. In addition to donating labor, Centex Homes supplied all of the home's drywall.

"it was important to take the opportunity the SIPs gave us to create an economical





Katherine Lambert



Left: Homeowners Florence Blake and Mary McGhee. Above: Members of her church present McGhee with housewarming gifts.

Above: While a quick construction time and a volunteer crew are typical of a Habitat build, the interior design services (provided by *Home* magazine's Gale Steves and interior design firm Home Resource, Sarasota, Fla.) and product donations were unique to this project.

gh-volume ceiling for the great room.”—john allegretti, aia



second place

britt halsell

*hal thomas reid & associates, architects
ocala, fla.*

award for design excellence

a simple, decent, affordable house.” That’s how Habitat for Humanity describes the houses its affiliates build, and each affiliate interprets that directive for itself, within basic guidelines. Architect Britt Halsell’s take on “simple, decent, and affordable”—an approach the judges named runner-up winner in this year’s

competition—is rooted in the notion that a simple house doesn’t have to look unattractive, a small house needn’t feel cramped, and good ideas don’t have to cost a lot.

Halsell, designer and computer jockey at Hal Thomas Reid & Associates, Architects, a three-person design firm in Ocala, Fla., says he saw the competition as a creative challenge, and an opportunity to pull together some of the ideas he had when he saw the winners of last year’s competition. “I thought I could do something even better,” he says.

For this project, Halsell says he “started with the bedrooms. I didn’t want them to be too small.” While it was tough to squeeze four bedrooms into a house with a 1,176-square-foot upper limit, he successfully managed to keep them all in the 9½-by-10½-foot ballpark. He made them feel even larger by giving them 9-foot ceilings, a contrast to the adjacent hallway’s 7-foot height. The next task, as he saw it, was to “leave the living area as open as possible. I did every trick I could to make that part of the house seem larger.”

Trick number one was a screened porch on the front of the house, connected to the living area by way of a large sliding glass door—a



Northlight Photography

This house, built by the Tacoma, Wash., Habitat affiliate, was inspired by Halsell’s design. A local architect modified the plan to conform to local guidelines.



homes for



Britt Halsell's award-winning design proves that small and affordable needn't mean cramped and unattractive. Inexpensive details like 1x lattice over the front gable and an Arts and Crafts-style railing make for an appealing exterior.

habitat

by ann marie moriarty
and meghan drueding

homes *for* habitat second place

feature that particularly impressed the panel of judges. A matching door directly opposite it on the back wall overlooks a small deck with a pergola. "That visually extends the space," Halsell says, by adding 16 feet of outdoor floor space to the room—8 in front, 8 in back.

The U-shaped kitchen became a part of the great room, separated only by a peninsula and bar-stool seating. And the height of the great room's ceiling also contributes to the sense of spaciousness. "Because the design criteria specified SIPs [structural insulated panels], the ceiling is automatically vaulted," says Halsell. "There's no need for rafters or trusses, since the panels provide the structural support." But Halsell added a truss anyway—a false scissors truss that emphasizes the room's height and volume. The final touch was a round window at the gable end.

Next, Halsell set about creating unobtrusive storage. He put overhead shelving in the bedrooms, extending it over the hall ceiling. Then, he stashed the water heater and HVAC

unit on an attic-level platform, also over the hallway. The electrical panel was set into the wall in the hallway, for easy access.

A bath/laundry axis through the bedroom wing kept the plumbing plan simple, and resulted in space for two full baths instead of the one and one-half baths called for in the contest guidelines.

Halsell incorporated inexpensive touches outside to give the house some charm. He suggested colored masonry block with stained mortar for the crawl space (or, alternatively, poured concrete with colored stain) to eliminate the basic "concrete gray" in a way that would need little maintenance.

Outside, he punctuated board-and-batten-look siding with areas of horizontal trim above and below the windows from sill plate to roofline, adding apparent height to the house. The board-and-batten lines are continued on the roof by seamed panels of galvanized metal roofing. (An asphalt shingle alternative calls for one or more bands of contrasting color.) The geometry of 1x lattice over the front gable, an Arts and Crafts-style porch railing, and an inexpensive application of 1x furring strips to the exterior door produced a simple, friendly, polished front elevation.

While Halsell's winning plan was designed for the contest's Lothian, Md., site, Habitat's Nevil Eastwood says it will be made available to the 1,500 Habitat affiliates in the country that might wish to build it in their areas.

Ann Marie Moriarty is a freelance writer based in Silver Spring, Md.



*halsell used
inexpensive
touches outside
to give the
house some
charm.*



Northlight Photography

The Tacoma, Wash., Habitat affiliate incorporated earth-friendly, energy-efficient details into its modified version of Halsell's design.



second build

The Tacoma, Wash., Habitat affiliate, in partnership with the Louisiana-Pacific Foundation, already has built a modified version of Halsell's plan. The foundation, which often works with nonprofit organizations on projects related to housing, was particularly interested in promoting energy-efficient and "green" construction, and donated such products to the project.

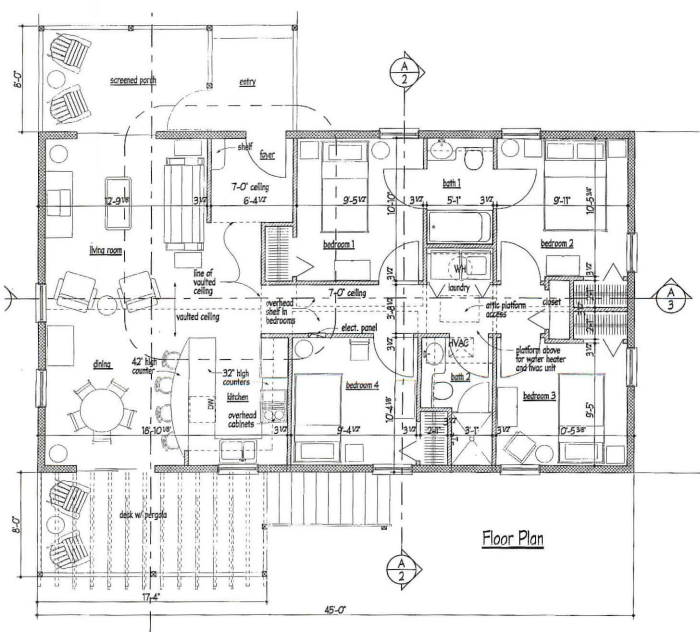
First, Habitat had Tacoma architect Bill Barrett modify the plan to conform to local affiliate guidelines. "From the outside," he says, "it still looks pretty similar. But we don't put pergolas on simple housing here." Inside, the back sliding door, the false truss, and the entry foyer were eliminated and a utility room added. And the second bath was moved so that it could open onto the hallway.

The foundation then circulated the plan to a panel of five experts for review: Perry Bigelow, Bigelow Homes, Palatine, Ill.; Steve Loken, of Loken Builders and the Center for Resourceful Building Technology, Missoula, Mont.; Doug Seiter, of the Green Builder Program of Colorado, Denver; Jen Uncapher, of the Rocky Mountain Institute, Aspen, Colo.; and Peter Yost, from the NAHB Research Center, in Upper Marlboro, Md. The panel members suggested changes that would be earth-friendly and ratchet up the level of energy efficiency.

Some of the details include extra insulation of water lines; an energy-efficient hot-water heater, gas dryer, and other appliances; low-VOC paint; recycled-fiber carpet and recycled-foam pads; engineered-wood I-joists, trim, siding, finger-jointed dimensional lumber, and interior doors; and fluorescent lamps, to be used where lights are on for extended periods.

In addition, site clearing and soil moving was done in a way that would least disturb the surrounding area. During the build, care was taken to separate and sort the construction waste and recycle wherever possible.

Even the landscaping was considered. While water use wouldn't seem to be an issue in the soggy Northwest, summers can be hot. The landscape plan included only those plants that could get through hot spells without additional watering.—a.m.m.



In Halsell's plan, a wide-open great room encompasses the living room, dining room, and kitchen. Sliding glass doors to the front porch and back deck visually expand the space further. Thanks to 9-foot ceilings, the bedrooms, too, feel spacious.

homes *for* habitat citation *of* merit

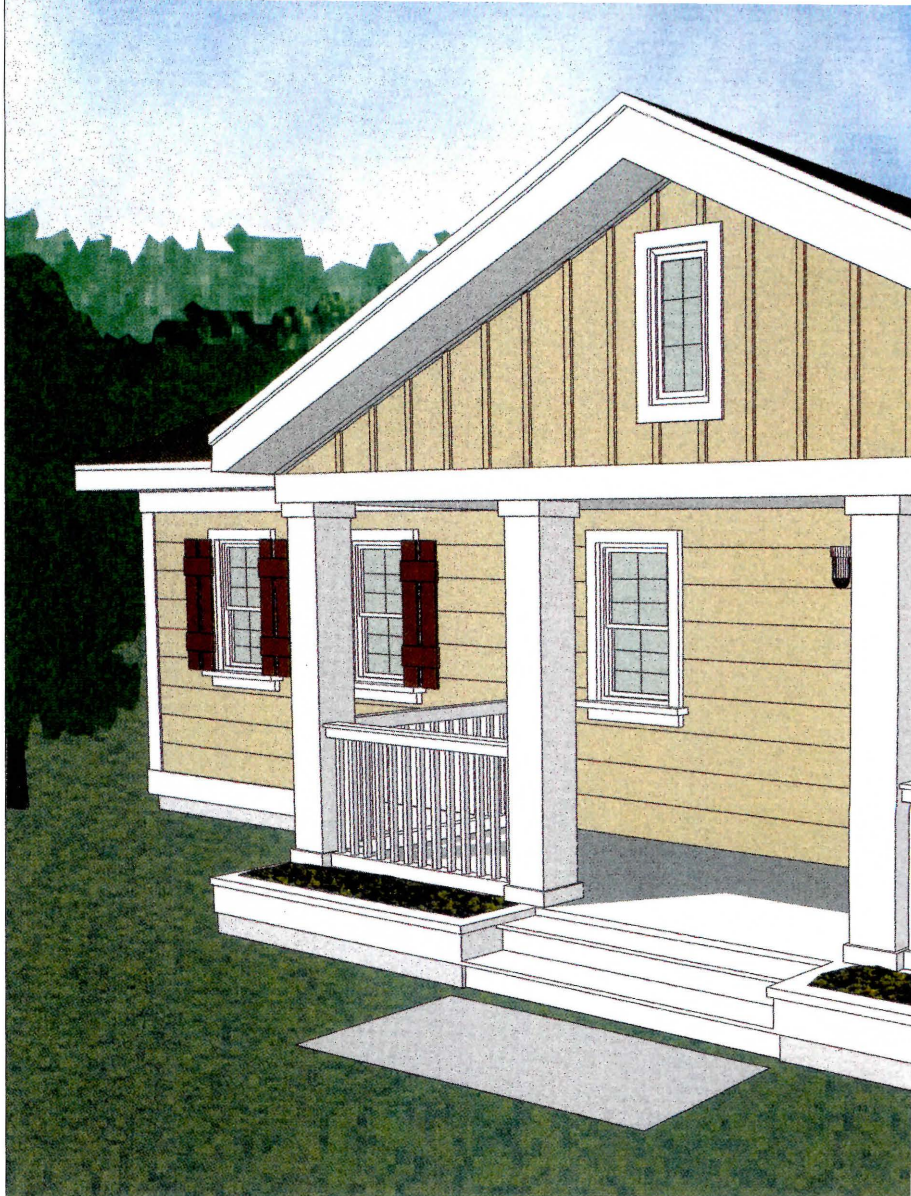
vince linarello
vincent linarello architect
monroe, n.y.

award for design excellence

Vince Linarello's entry incorporates one of the major selling points for market-rate houses all over the country: flexible space. He designed a combination living and dining room that the residents, by moving a custom-built TV cabinet, can easily turn into an expansive great room. His plan offers another sought-after perk, as well: natural light. Abundant windows invite plenty of sunlight in and, as Linarello points out, provide a gateway for spring and summer breezes.

The judges liked the "service core," as the architect calls it—the concentration of bathrooms, kitchen, utility closet, and mudroom into one central space. This consolidation means fewer pipe runs are needed, and it simplifies the installation process. "The mudroom with washer and dryer is a nice touch," said one judge.

Designing a relatively small—8½-by-8½-foot—kitchen allowed Linarello to devote more space to the four bedrooms. Each measures more than 90 square feet, a bonus the judges admired. The child's bedroom features bunk beds and a built-in study space. The home's simple, boxy footprint helps cut construction costs; so does cost-effective clapboard siding. A gabled roof, columned front porch, and flower boxes flanking the front steps combine to create a warm, welcoming atmosphere.—*m.d.*



Vertical clapboard siding on the home's gables continues the lines of the front porch's columns and spindles. And it adds textural interest when coupled with the horizontal siding on the rest of the house.



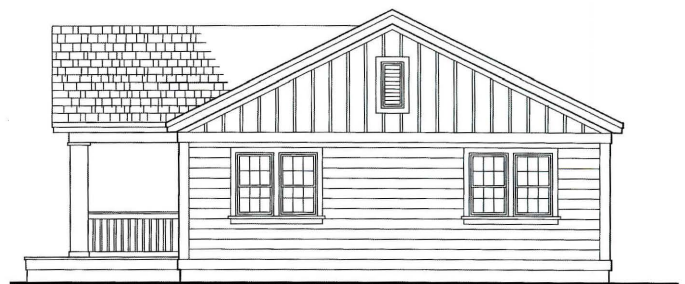
*the house's
simple, boxy
footprint helps
cut construction
costs.*



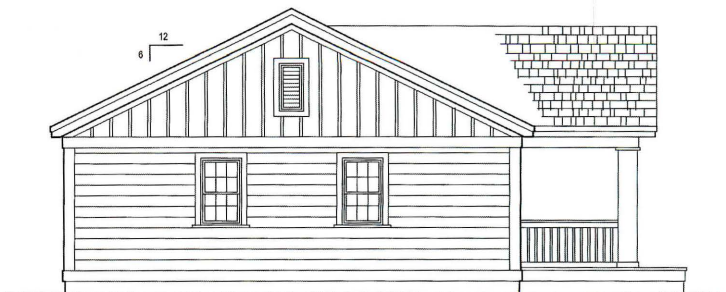
FRONT ELEVATION
1/4" = 1'-0"



REAR ELEVATION
1/4" = 1'-0"



SIDE ELEVATION
1/4" = 1'-0"



SIDE ELEVATION
1/4" = 1'-0"

homes for habitat citation of merit

everett seven
and steven ehrlich

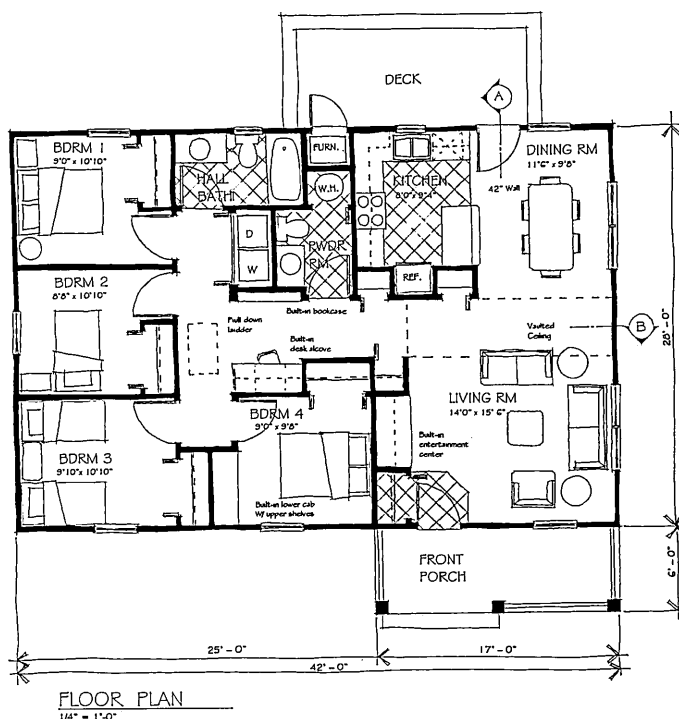
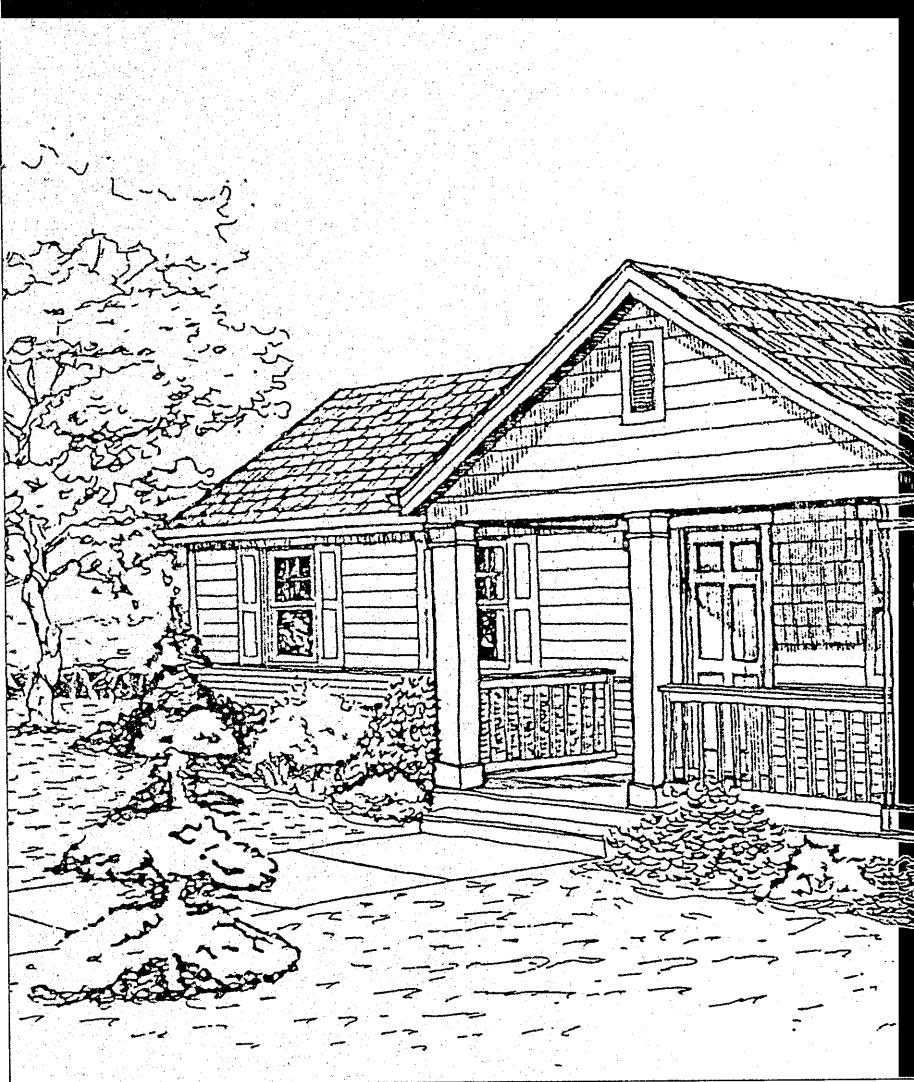
burnstead construction co.
bellevue, wash.

award for design excellence

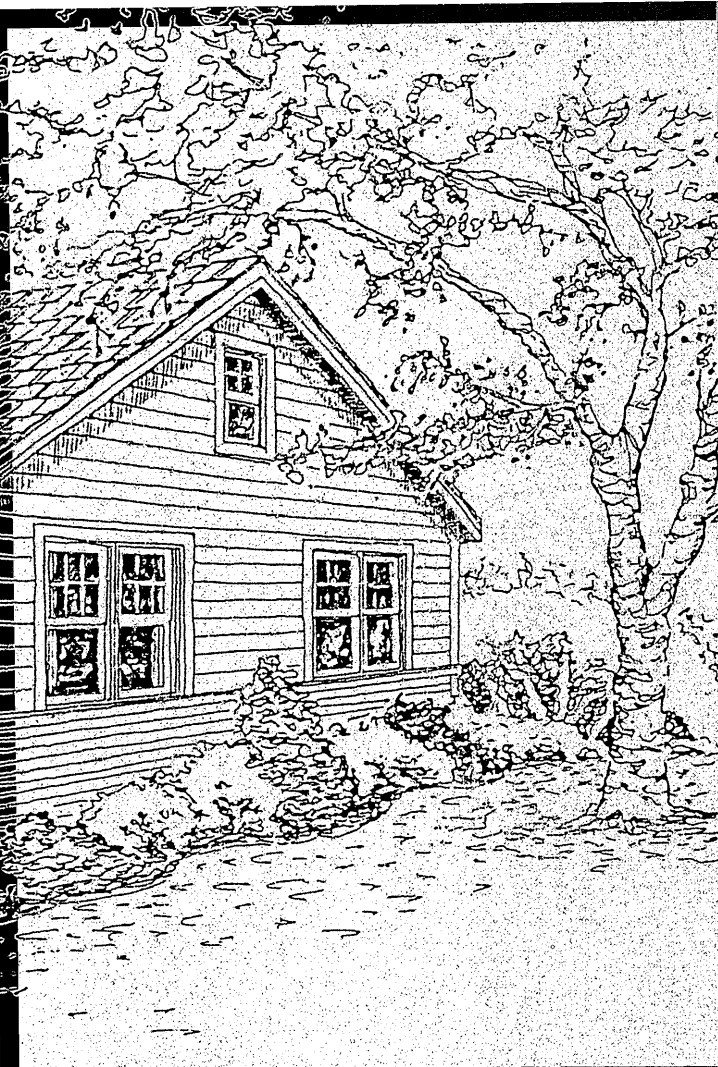
The judges admired the high ceilings and sense of spaciousness in Everett Seven and Steven Ehrlich's plan. "I like the flair in these big, open rooms," said one. The Bellevue, Wash., duo designed a vaulted ceiling in the main living area of the house to create an easily cooled space. They also placed the home's public rooms at its southern end to maximize their sun exposure. Further energy-saving strategies include centralized plumbing and low-flow faucets and fixtures.

Seven and Ehrlich's design contains lots of built-ins—bedroom cabinets, a hallway desk alcove and bookcase, and a living room entertainment center. "We put the desk in the hallway because it's a place where you can do homework or bookkeeping and not be too far away from the action," Seven says. "The bookcases make that area sort of a little library—it's the hub of the house, where privacy and social space overlap."

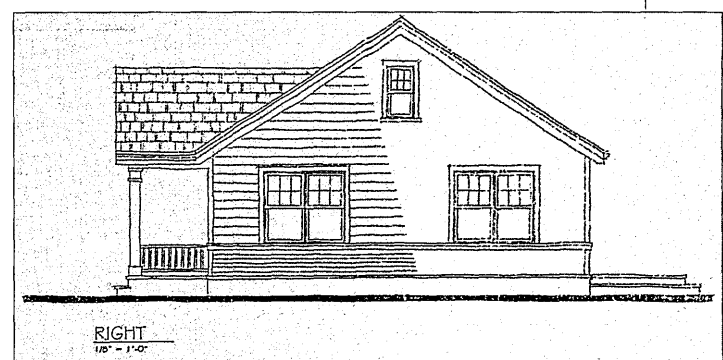
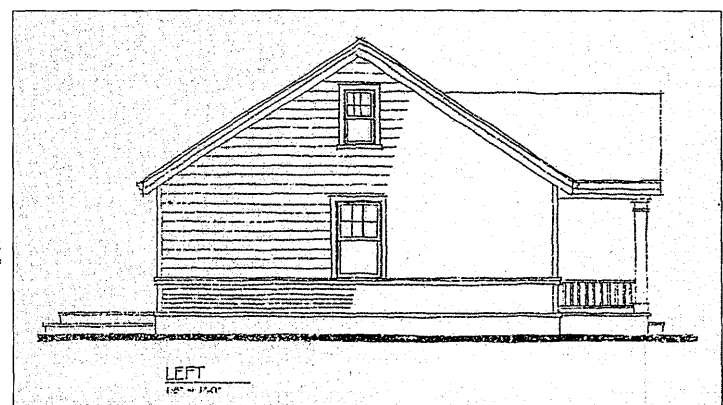
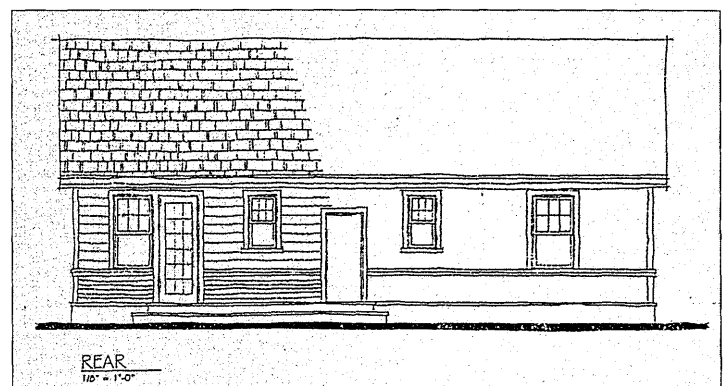
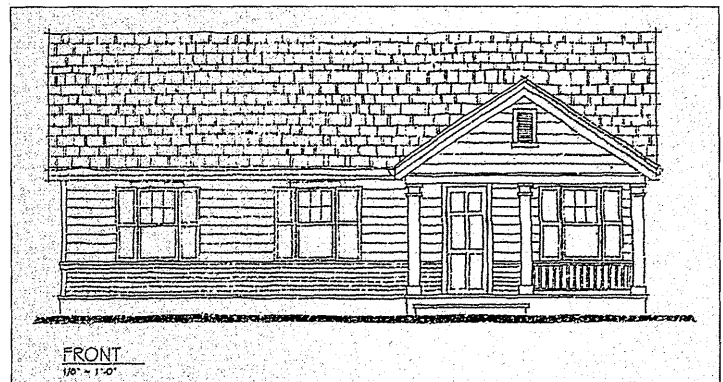
The kitchen opens up to the rear deck and dining room, facilitating social interaction between residents in all three spaces. The plan also includes attic storage space above the bedrooms. "Let's face it, Americans never throw anything out," Seven says. "Especially if there's no garage, the family would need someplace to store their things."—*m.d.*



Seven and Ehrlich's plan achieves privacy for its residents by definitively separating the bedrooms from the public spaces.

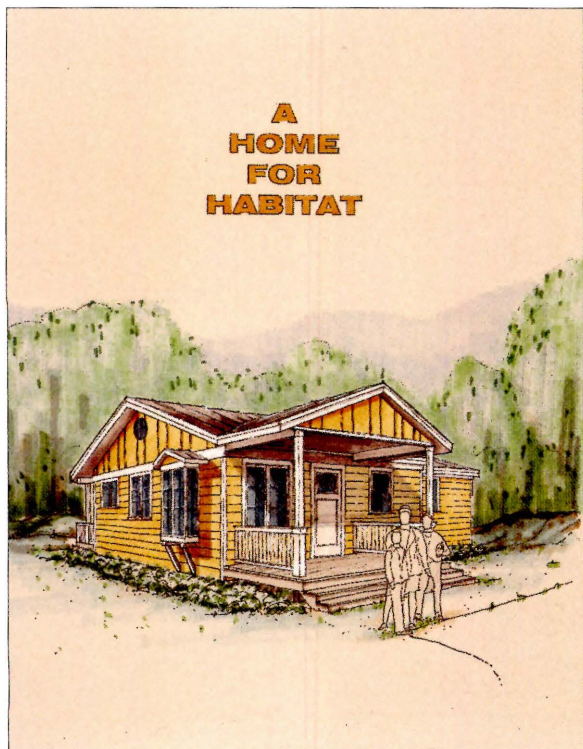


*"i like the flair
in these big,
open rooms,"
said one judge.*



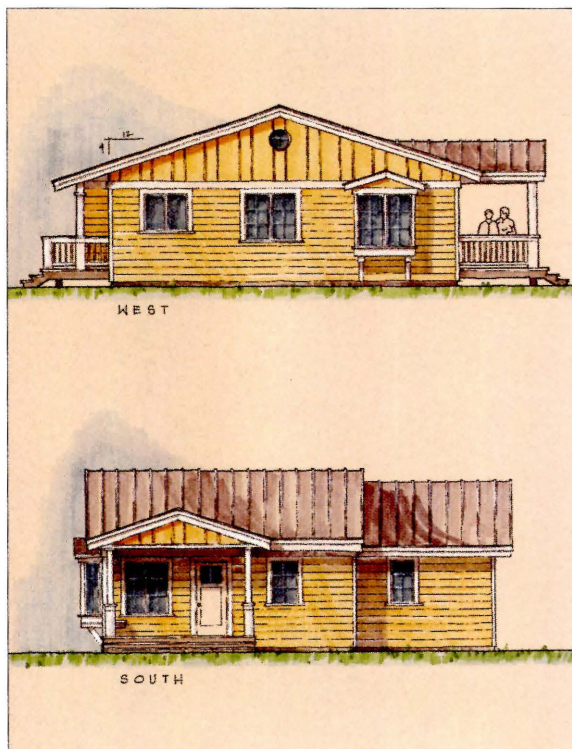
homes *for* habitat

honorable mentions



carl de miguez
and robin barker
moburg epstein architects
seattle

award for overall quality of design



david e. grass
p/d architects
scottsdale, ariz.

award for artistic quality of presentation

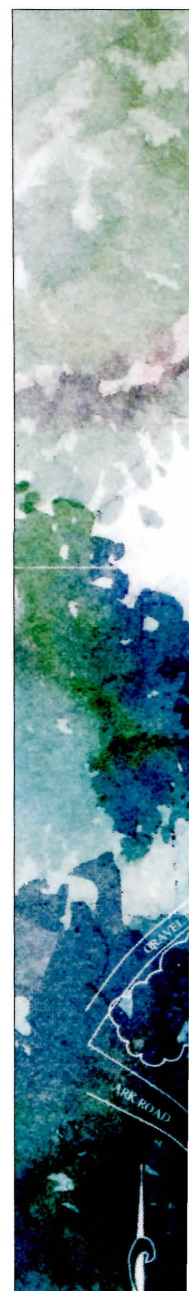


Photo: Charlie Brown



edward a. smith III, aia,
 bernard "tut" bartzen jr., aia,
 patrick w. mcclane, aia,
 sarah g. barber, megan mcirvin,
 and frank nagle

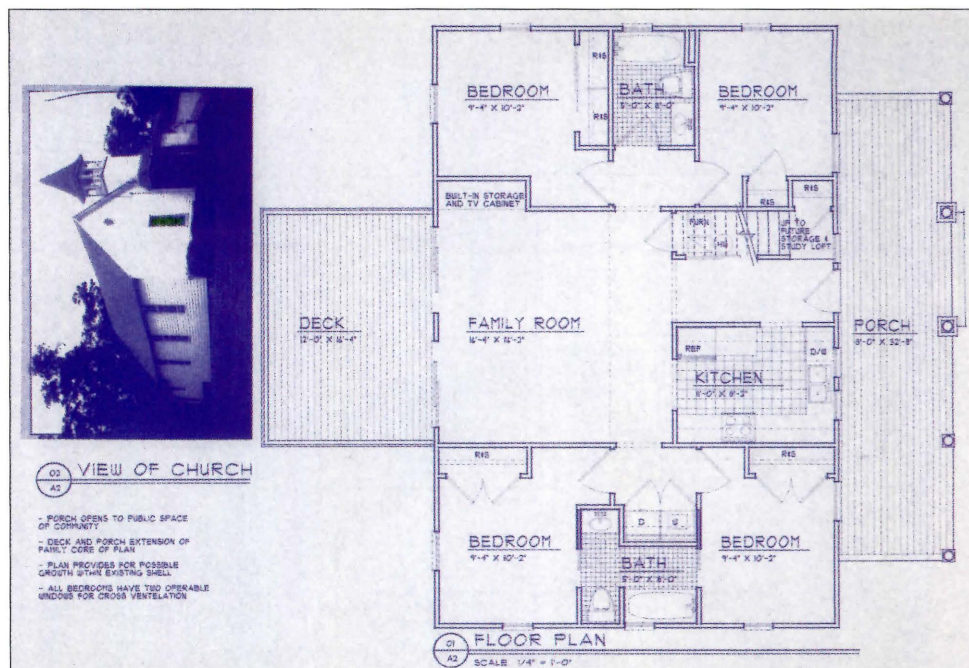
*marcellus wright cox & smith architects
 richmond, va.*

award for artistic quality of presentation

homes *for* habitat honorable mentions

j. kent williams
and john f. heltzel
john f. heltzel aia
manassas, va.

award for overall quality
of presentation



wayne l. good,
brian w. bassindale,
laura kaupp,
and david mallon
good/architecture
annapolis, md.

award for artistic quality
of presentation

Photo: Charlie Brown

residential architect salutes the
many unsung heroes — from
community volunteers to building
product manufacturers — whose
contributions to Habitat for
Humanity International bring
housing to families in need.

 **Habitat for Humanity®**
International



Building Homes
for Life



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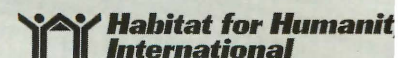
You can depend on us to deliver a constant supply of everything you need to stay ahead of the

Building Homes for Life



weather and the competition—a multi-level vinyl siding program, soffits, siding accessories, plus all the model home and showroom merchandising you could want. It's all designed to help you weather the storms, for a long time to come.

ABTCO has been a strong supporter of Habitat for Humanity on many levels, and our people are proud to be involved. To learn more about all our vinyl siding products and programs, call 800-648-6893.





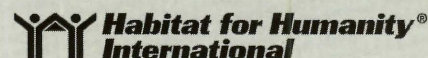
It's 100° in the shade, or pouring rain. You're in a remote Indian village, or perhaps inner city L.A. Your muscles ache, and you've been at it since before dawn. So why do you feel so great? If you've ever worked on a Habitat for Humanity build, you know the answer. Since the early 1980s, The Dow Chemical Company has been a proud supporter of Habitat for Humanity® International. We're Habitat's official supplier of rigid foam insulation in North America, and Blue* STYROFOAM® brand insulation, manufactured exclusively by Dow, is familiar on Habitat jobsites.

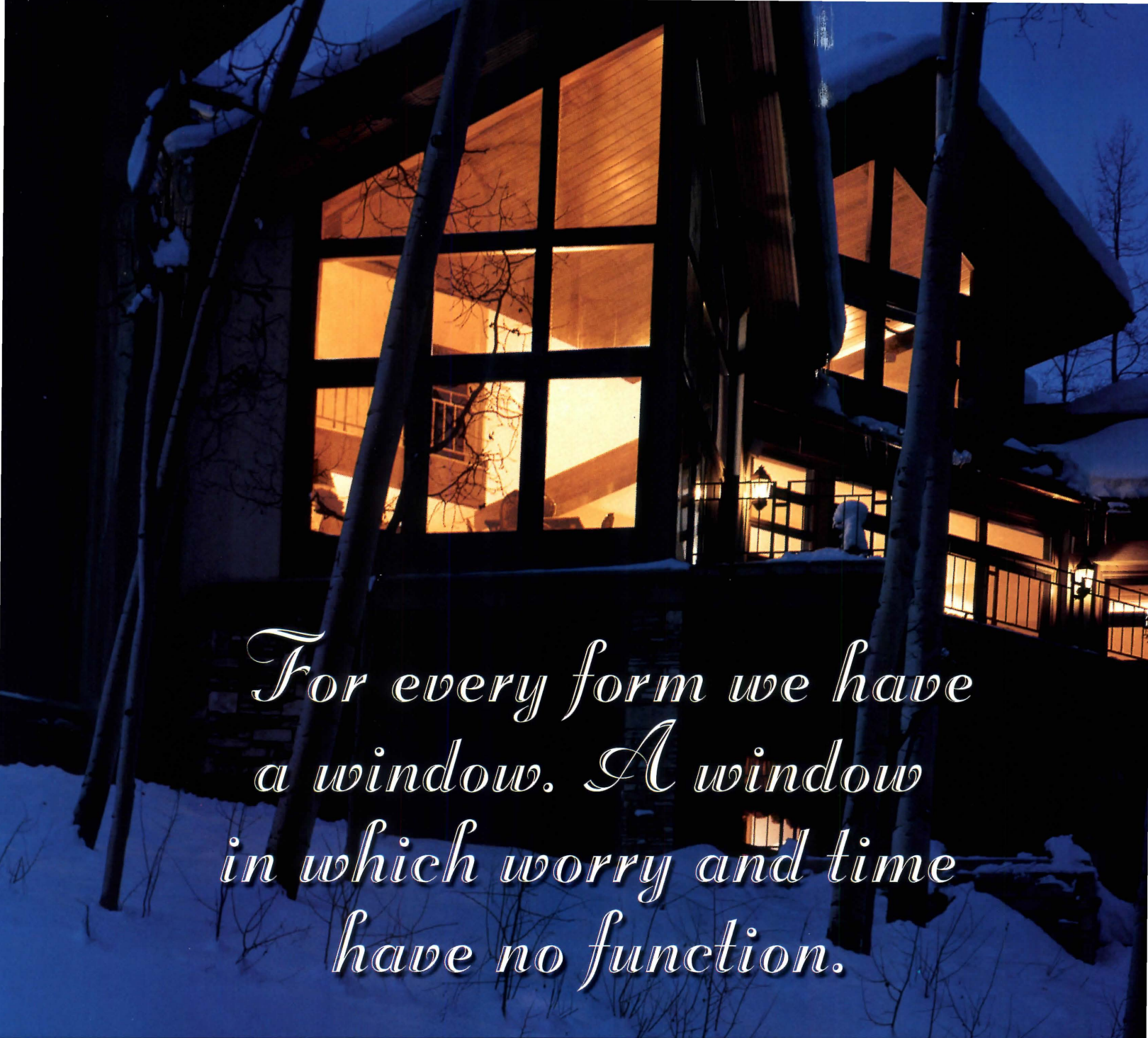
We've sponsored homes at Jimmy Carter Work Projects for longer than anyone can remember, and

Building Homes for Life

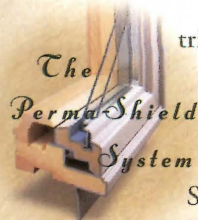
our employees and customers have generously given of their time and talent from Houston to Hungary and most everywhere in between. Last year, we sponsored a house in the Philippines, and we'll be building again this year when Habitat constructs its 100,000th home. Though we're donating millions of dollars in sponsorships, funding, and insulation, and encouraging everyone within earshot to get involved, what we're getting back is even more valuable. Get involved with Habitat for Humanity in your community; you just don't know what you're missing. Contact Dow at 800-441-4369 or visit our website at www.styrofoam.com.

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in which worry and time
have no function.*



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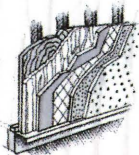
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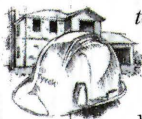
With synthetic stucco or EIFS construction, the grooved texture of StuccoWrap™ channels moisture away from the structure.

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Circle no. 338



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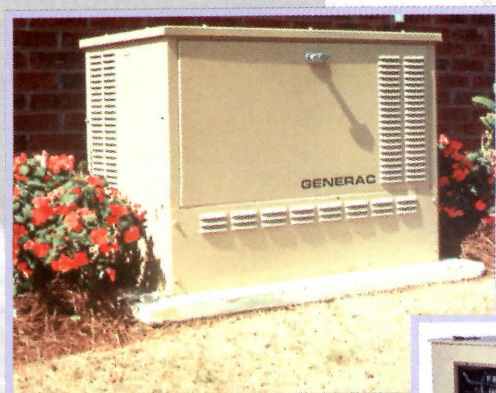


Generac offers high-performance standby generator units tailored specifically for home use, with models generating from 6,000 to 25,000 watts of electricity. Systems such as the Generac Guardian power system can be integrated into new construction or retro-fitted for older structures.

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Building Homes for Life



For 40 years Generac has been manufacturing a full line of residential and industrial electric power generators. The company has a deep commitment to making emergency power systems available to those who need them. Whether it's disaster relief, disaster preparedness, or everyday protection from utility power failures, Generac's products can make life a little easier. We are pleased to show our support for Habitat for Humanity by participating in this section.

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International**



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Building Homes for Life

Carrier Corporation is honored to be able to play a part in Habitat's efforts, by donating products that help conserve energy and protect the environment, and through our employee volunteers who, by the year 2000, will have helped build 32 homes in the U.S. and abroad. The benefits to our employees go far beyond the satisfaction of helping families in need. Working side-by-side with Habitat families has strengthened our communities, creating bonds that last well after the final nail is driven.

We join *residential architect* magazine in paying tribute to Habitat for Humanity, its admirable mission, and the countless volunteers who have given generously of their time and energy. They have truly turned dreams into reality for thousands of families around the world.

Contact Carrier at 800-4-CARRIER or visit its web site at www.carrier.com.



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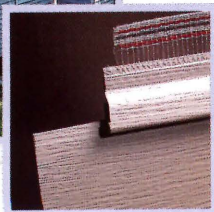
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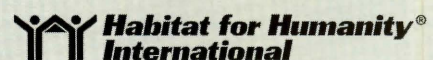
As of January 2000, we expanded our partnership with Habitat for Humanity by partnering on 20 Women's Builds projects across the country and participating in the *More Than Houses* campaign.

At the 20 Women's Builds, crews of women will construct the homes from foundation to completion. We truly believe in the power of women to help make lives better. Our involvement with Habitat for Humanity and the Women's Builds projects fits that belief perfectly.



Mike Thieneman, President, North American region, Whirlpool Corporation has recently accepted a position on the global corporate committee for the *More than Houses Campaign* and pledges to help recruit other corporations to assist Habitat. "As corporations, we have a responsibility to the communities in which we work and live that goes beyond providing jobs. By taking an active role in initiatives like Habitat, we show the world that we stand for something larger than profits."

At Whirlpool Corporation, we share in Habitat for Humanity's quest to eliminate poverty by providing decent and affordable housing to families in need and we salute the architects, builders and volunteers who work together to make this dream a reality.



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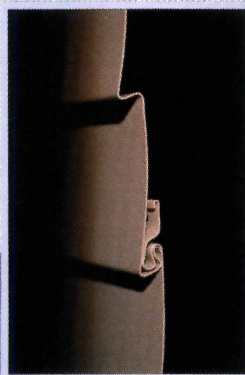
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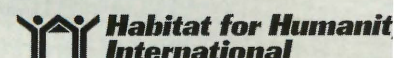
Building Homes for Life

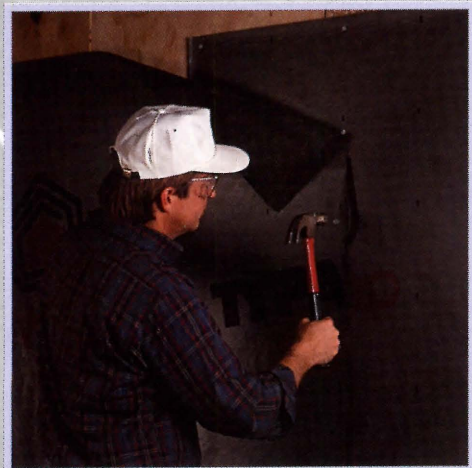
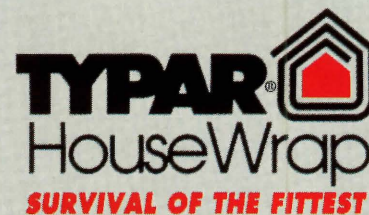


use in sales presentations. It allows homeowners to “try on” a number of samples of Variform siding on a variety of home styles, making the siding specifying process easy for builders and architects.

Variform is excited to be a partner with Habitat for Humanity in constructing homes for low-income families. For over 25 years, Habitat for Humanity has been resurrecting the hopes and dreams of thousands of families around the world. And Variform has donated manpower and materials at sites from Texas to Illinois, Georgia to California, and they look forward to taking part in future projects.

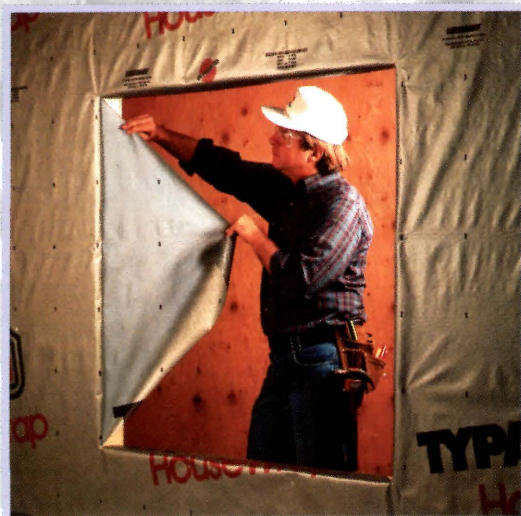
For information contact Variform at 800-800-2244 or visit their website at www.variform.com.



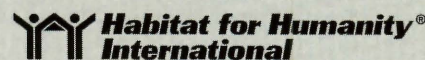


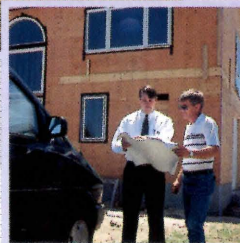
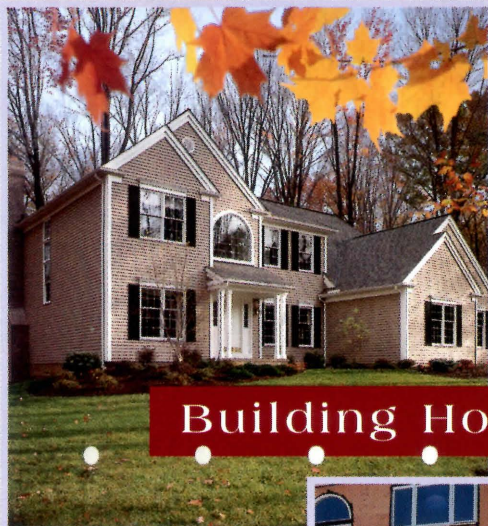
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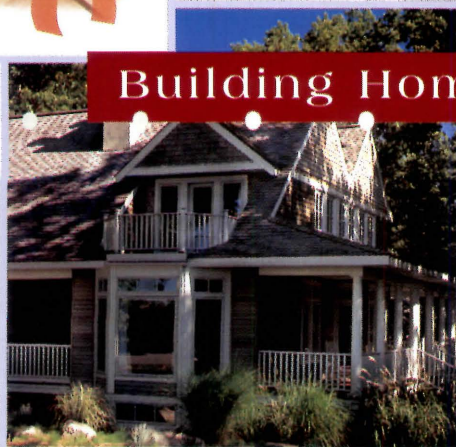
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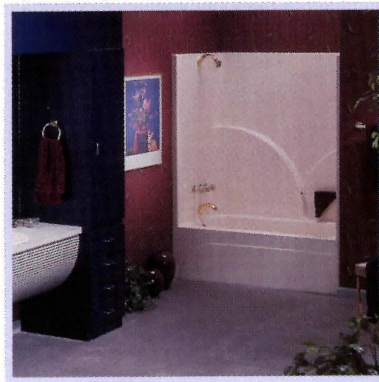
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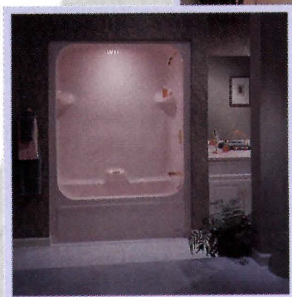




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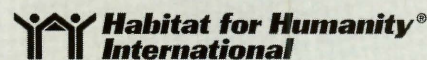
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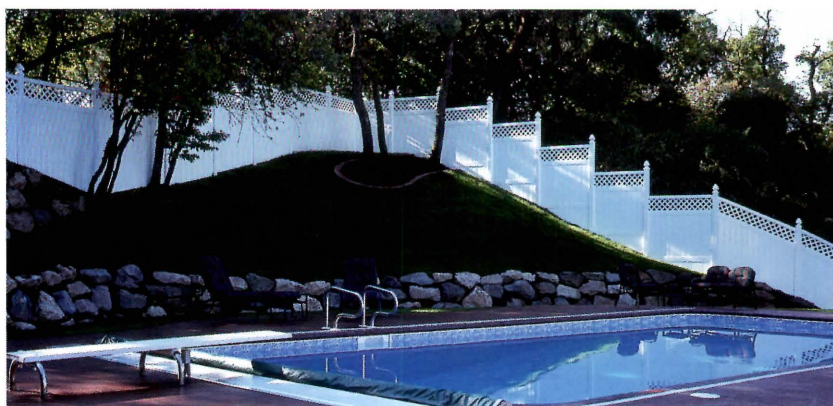
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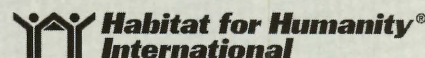
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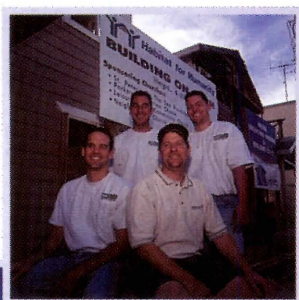
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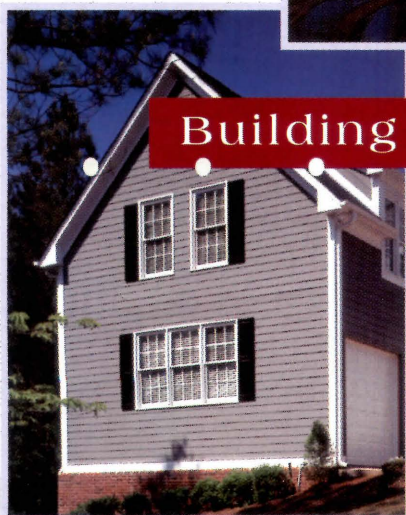




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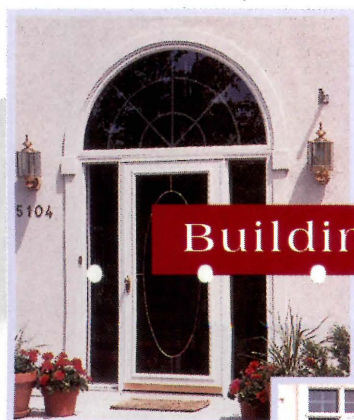
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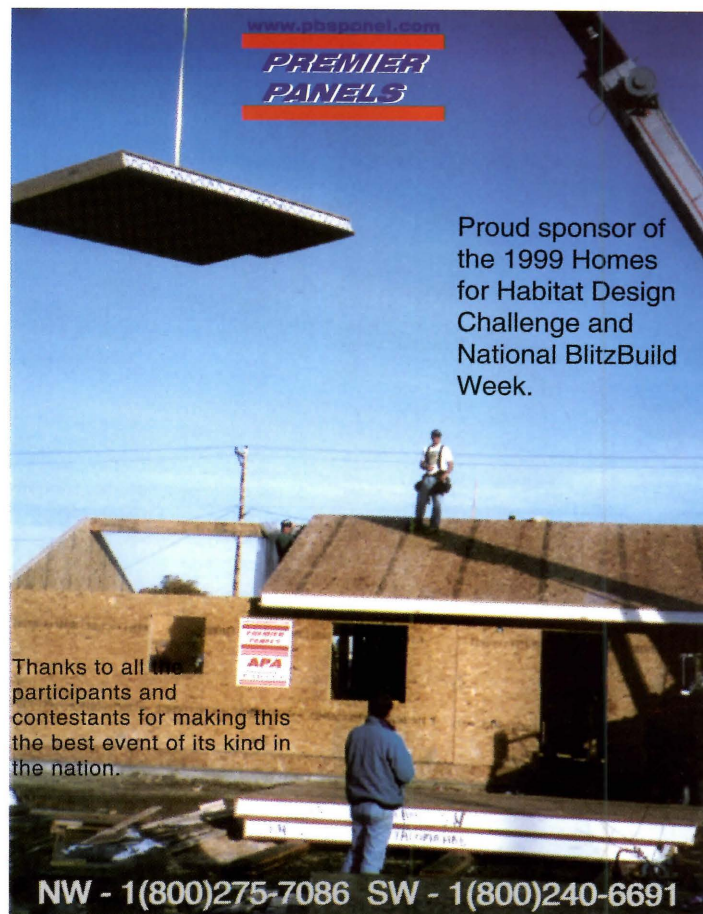
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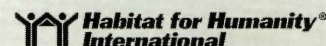


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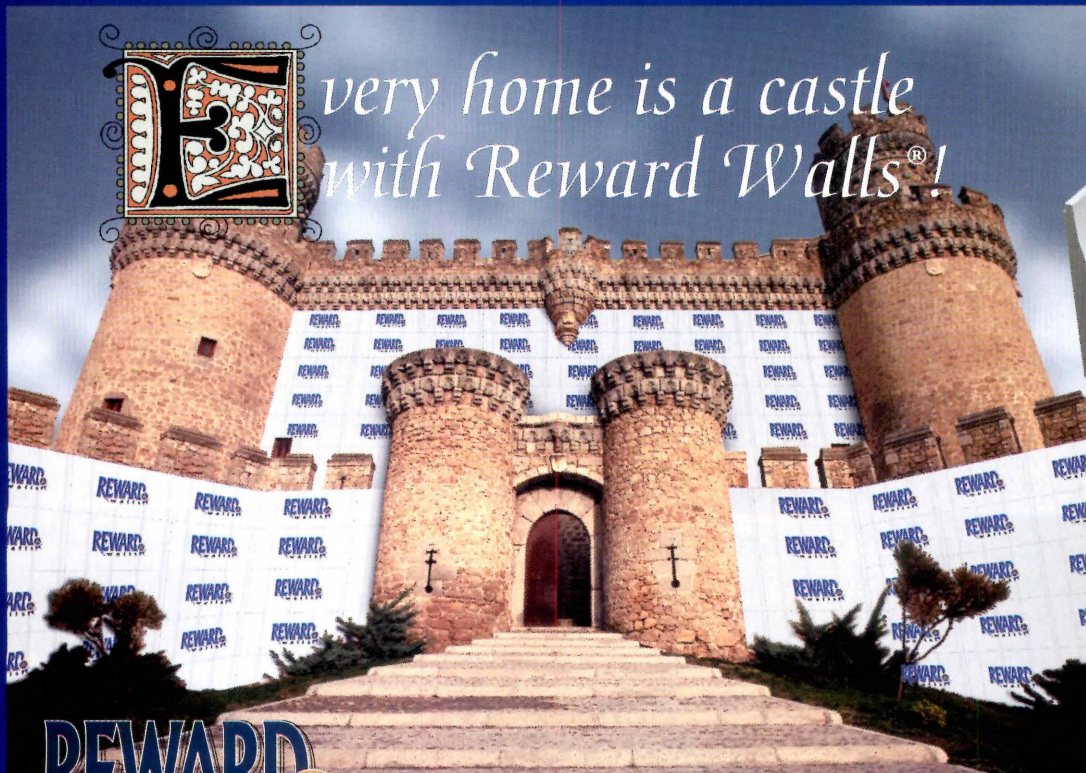
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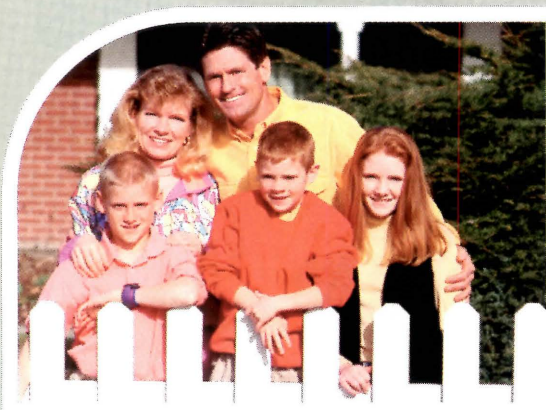
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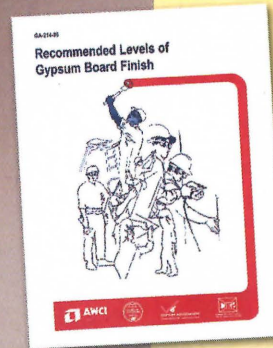
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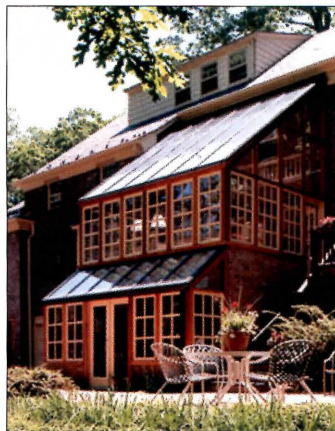
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logging on

today's log homes combine custom options and production efficiencies.

by rich binsacca

architect Kevin McKee, AIA, had a problem. His clients wanted the rustic look of handcrafted logs for their vacation home in the Northwest wilderness, but McKee's supplier, Garland Homes, of Victor, Mont., milled only the more common, uniform logs typical of a precut package. "A log-home manufacturer's objective is to precut the package and ship it to the site for fast assembly," McKee explains. "A handcrafted look requires cutting and stacking each log on site." That process, he says, is not only too slow—it also results in unreliable final dimensions, requiring additional design work and hiking up the cost of the project.

McKee, principal of Kevin McKee Associates, in Boise, Idaho, pushed for a compromise. He and the design-and-production team at Garland put their heads together and worked out a solution: a milled log that maintains a tree's natural taper while still allowing Garland to precut the components and deliver a package that can be constructed on schedule.



© Roger Wade

Although still a small segment of the overall housing market, log dwellings are increasingly popular for vacation homes. Kevin McKee, AIA, designed this McCall, Idaho, home; Garland Homes was the supplier.

The Raw Log series, as the company has dubbed the new system, is now one of Garland's standard options. (The system also features an innovative connection method that mitigates the impact of a log home's natural shrinkage; more on that later.) It's also an example of how architects like McKee can achieve a particular or unusual aesthetic within the confines of a manufactured home environment. "Others just crank out logs and houses," says Garland's Jack Engelman, "but

architects like Kevin are pushing the envelope of this industry."

opportunities

At first glance, opportunities for architects in the log home arena appear to be fairly limited. It's a small and specialized niche; log homes represent less than 2 percent of all new housing starts per year and are built mostly in rural areas. Furthermore, most manufacturers of log homes work directly with clients through their in-house design and drafting services, often from

a catalog of stock plans offered by the company. Approximately 80 percent of the log homes built each year do not involve an outside architect.

But the remainder that *do* are often larger, more expensive projects with tricky sites and details that are beyond the scope and ability of a log home manufacturer. "If we think the clients need the more intensive services of an architect, we'll refer them to one we know can handle it," says Engelman, who

continued on page 74



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also calls in outside engineers or other experts for local code compliance issues. "Design is not a revenue source for us."

And even manufacturers who offer significant in-house design services, such as Town & Country Cedar Homes, in Petoskey, Mich., are often willing to hand over the reins to architects who bring their own clients to the table. "We work to protect the status of the

"others just crank out logs and houses, but architects ... are pushing the envelope of this industry."

—jack engelman, garland homes



© Roger Wade

Only about 20 percent of the log homes built each year involve an architect, but they tend to be larger and more expensive projects like this one (also shown on previous page).

architect as the professional in charge," says Stephen Biggs, Town & Country CEO. "We support them in whatever way is most comfortable."

logs vs. sticks

The problem is that when an opportunity does present itself, few design professionals are familiar with the system. "A log home or other factory-crafted package offers something different than what you can get from a lumberyard," says Biggs—which is why architects and homeowners often call on log-home makers for design assistance.

Log-home systems differ from stick-building in how they are designed and detailed on the plans as well as in how they are built on the site. "You have to understand these systems with regard to connections, bolting, fabrication, and even the sizes of logs they use," says McKee, "and every company is different."

To educate himself before beginning a project, McKee gathers and studies the log-home company's technical manuals, which provide the most detail for his design work. After he submits working drawings to the manufacturer, McKee and his staff review shop drawings created by the log company to make sure each cut and corner is

resources

Despite their tiny share of the new-housing market, dozens of manufacturers of log and other factory-crafted—or "kit"—homes operate in North America. Your choice of a particular maker may depend on its location or proximity to your building site, or on the company's design, engineering, or contractor services, among other considerations. The following industry groups and resources offer information about manufacturers as well as exhibitions, seminars, and other aspects of the factory-crafted-home industry.

trade associations and industry organizations

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The Building Systems Councils, including the Log Homes Council, sponsors exhibitions and seminars and provides information about the building-systems industry.

Log Home Living Association

Chantilly, Va.

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The LHLA conducts or sponsors various exhibitions and seminars promoting the log-home industry. The organization also houses Home Buyer Publications, publisher of Log Home Living magazine.

LogHomes.com

www.loghomes.com.

This Web-only resource is a clearinghouse of information on factory-crafted homes. Listings include brochures, links to manufacturers and builders, and mortgage and maintenance resources.

books

The Log Home Book: Design, Past and Present. Cindy Teipner Thiede, et al. 216 pp. Layton, Utah: Gibbs Smith, Publisher. 1995. \$29.95 (paperback). 800.547.9588.

The Complete Guide to Log and Cedar Homes: All About Buying, Building, Decorating, and Furnishing Log, Cedar, and Post & Beam Homes. Gary D. Branson. 160 pp. Boyd, Mont.: Betterway Books, Sunrise Productions. 1993. \$17.99 (paperback). 800.843.3607.

accurate to the working drawings. "That's a very critical step," he says. "Every time we've built a log home without shop drawings, something comes back to bite us." This back-and-forth review process is usually handled electronically, via e-mailed CAD drawings and other computer-generated files.

Biggs also warns that architects who are accustomed to conventional homes need to think differently about connections and exposures when they are working with logs. "Logs and timbers will be the dominant architectural statement of the building," he says. "You can't cover anything up, so every component and connection has to be architecturally detailed and finished."

shrinkage

Working with logs involves a wild card, too: dimensional shrinkage. A conventional stack of milled logs may shrink up to an inch within an 8-foot-high wall (or about $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch per each log's diameter, depending on moisture content and climate), necessitating the use of window bucks and jack systems under the vertical support.

There are age-old remedies for settling and shrinkage, but McKee and other architects of larger, high-end log homes often find these approaches to addressing shrinkage incompatible with other ele-

ments of the house. Rock massings, odd-shaped windows or window walls, and the large vertical timbers used by architects to break up the monotony of long expanses of stacked logs aren't able to shift with a naturally shrinking log wall.

That's why, in addition to asking Garland for a handcrafted look, McKee also inquired about a pinning system wherein each log could move independently. With through-bolts and an elasticized chink

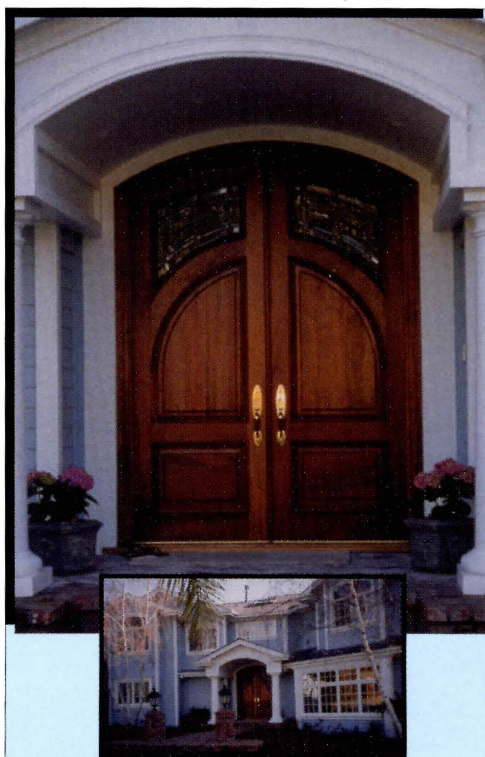
joint between the stacked logs to accommodate slight shrinkage, McKee can design almost any component and materials connection with confidence.

It may seem that working with logs invites trouble, but McKee relishes the challenge. "I like to push the boundaries of anyone I work with," he says. "I'll always ask why something can't be done and try to find a way to do it." ra

Rich Binsacca is a freelance writer in Boise, Idaho.

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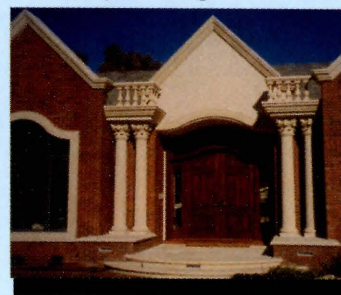
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balcony scene

in a picturesque setting, a minimalist design yields an unobtrusive, hanging deck.

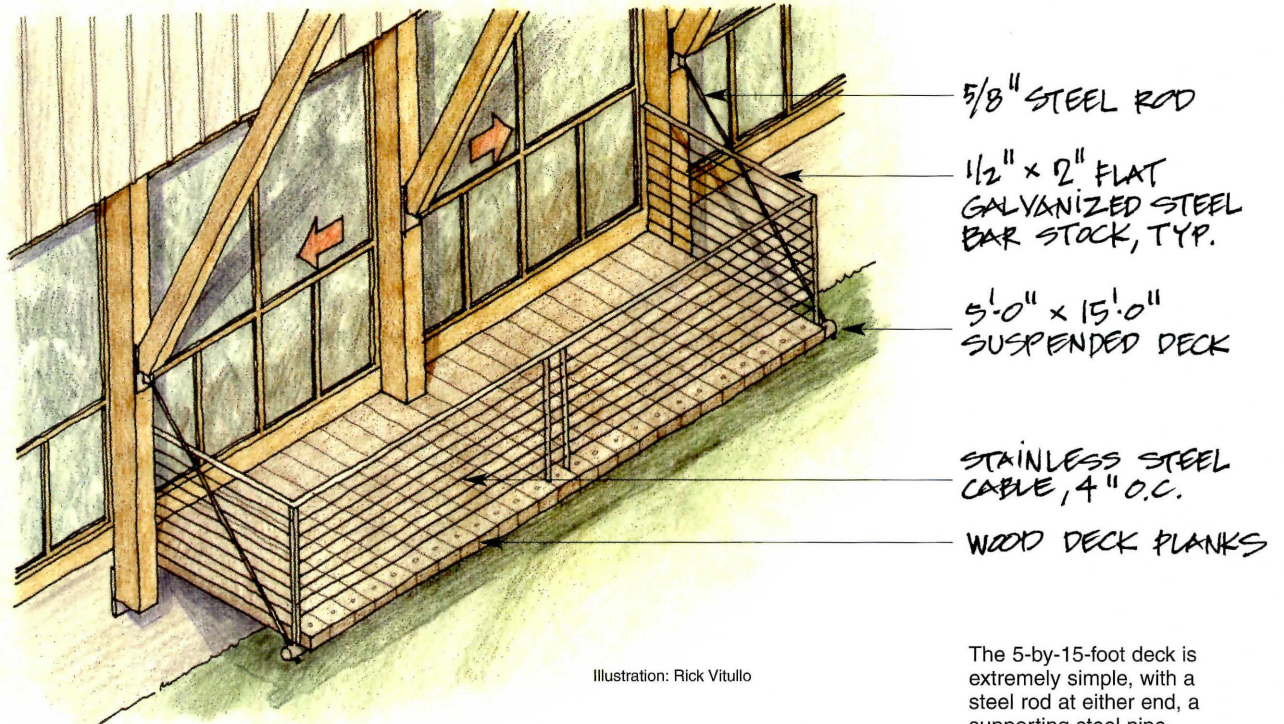


Illustration: Rick Vitullo

by rick vitullo, aia

a deck can afford wonderful views of a scenic site, but often while partially obstructing the very panorama it was designed to provide. Thick conventional posts and railings, though secure and stable, can impose on a delicate landscape. But how do you build what amounts to an “invisible” deck?

An alternative design by architect Robert Hull meets this challenge by relying on the house rather than the ground for the deck’s support. Hull, of The

Miller/Hull Partnership, in Seattle, devised the idea for a house on Washington’s San Juan Islands. The home’s circular site measures 100 feet in diameter and was selected for privacy, views, and a desire to preserve the existing trees.

To take full advantage of the beautiful setting, the house’s main living areas open to each other and to the outdoors, via two large, 7-foot 6-inch sliding doors. The client wanted to extend this space outside by

continued on page 78

The 5-by-15-foot deck is extremely simple, with a steel rod at either end, a supporting steel pipe underneath the floor planks at the outer edge, and steel angles holding up the planks at the inner edge. The planks themselves are structural; there are no joists underneath.



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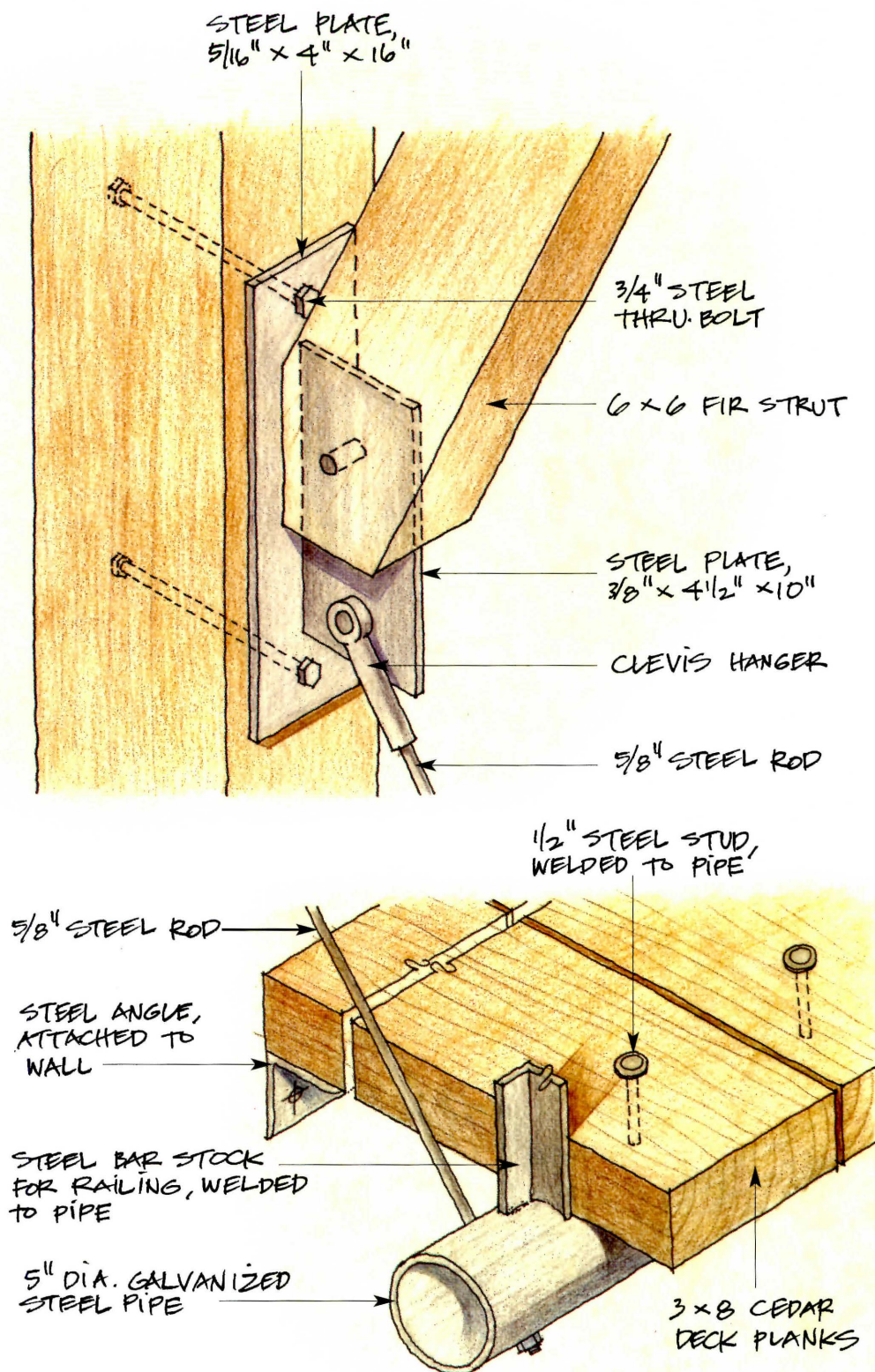
means of a small deck. To minimize the impact on the environment, Hull envisioned a lightweight, gondola-type structure that would hold aloft its "passengers." That meant suspending the deck from the house.

Like a canopy, the deck is held up by two steel rods anchored at one end to the house and at the other to a 5-inch-diameter steel pipe positioned under the cedar floor planks. The railing, also, is minimalist in design: 1/2-inch-by-2-inch flat steel bars make up the railing's vertical and horizontal structural pieces, while steel aircraft cables at 4 inches on-center constitute the horizontal parts between railing and floor. The result is an extremely strong but delicate system that permits safe views without sacrificing the feeling of the wild. **ra**

Rick Vitullo, AIA, is founder and principal of Vitullo Architecture Studio, Washington, D.C.

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Anchoring each 3-inch-by-8-inch cedar plank to the steel pipe is a 1/2-inch-diameter steel stud welded to the pipe below. All of the steel on this project is hot-dipped galvanized due to the salty conditions in the area.

Illustration: Rick Vitullo

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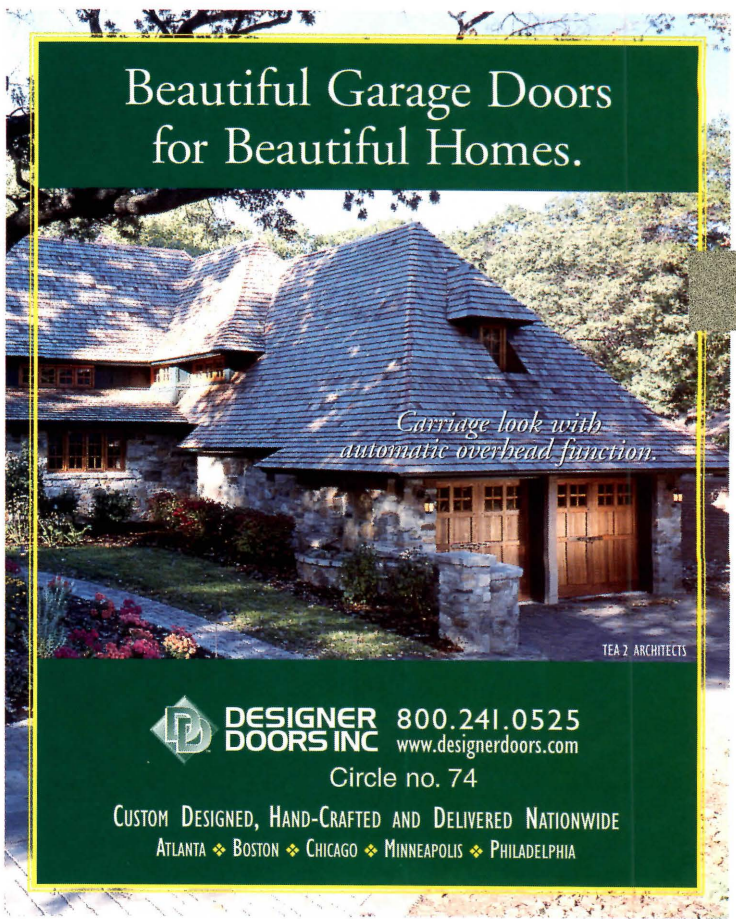
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material list &

Material List & Cost Estimate

Material	Description	Qty	Units	Cost	Mat.	Labor	Total
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D-20 Wall Insulation		1851	sq ft	0.30	18.00	3.00	21.00
Vapor Barrier (Poly)		2380	sq ft	0.02	18.00	5.00	23.00
Air Barrier		2058	sq ft	0.15	18.00	5.00	23.00
Subtotal							67.00
EXTERIOR FINISH							
Brick		81	sq ft	2.50	15.00	10.00	27.50
Siding		1227	sq ft	1.85	15.00	10.00	33.00
White Vinyl		1026	sq ft	1.90	15.00	10.00	34.90
Color Siding		1	mb	14.00	10.00	5.00	29.00
Brick Header		1	mb	12.00	10.00	5.00	27.00
Brick Tile		1	mb	12.00	10.00	5.00	27.00
Brick Mantel		1	mb	12.00	10.00	5.00	27.00
Brick Headboard		1	mb	12.00	10.00	5.00	27.00
Siding Starter		267	sq ft	0.16	10.00	5.00	15.16
Siding Siding		222	sq ft	0.16	10.00	5.00	15.16
Siding Drip Edge		10	ft	0.18	10.00	5.00	23.18
Outside Siding Corner		26	ft	1.00	10.00	5.00	16.00
Inside Siding Corner		42	ft	1.00	10.00	5.00	16.00
Upper Trim		80	ft	1.20	15.00	10.00	26.20
Window Trim		50	ft	1.20	15.00	10.00	26.20
Roofing		328	sq ft	0.45	18.00	5.00	23.45
Subtotal							228.16
TOTAL PROJECT COST							\$295.16

cost estimate

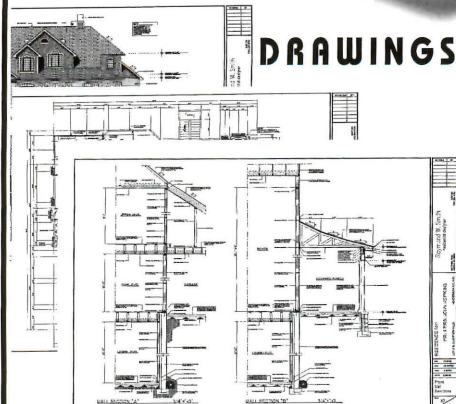
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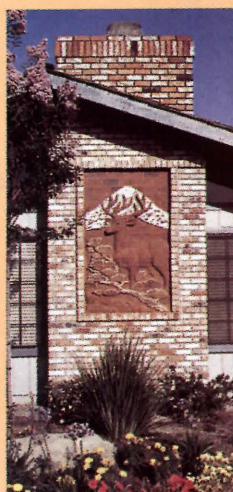
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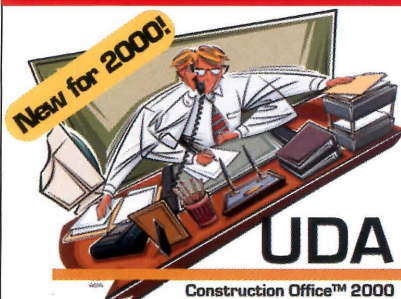
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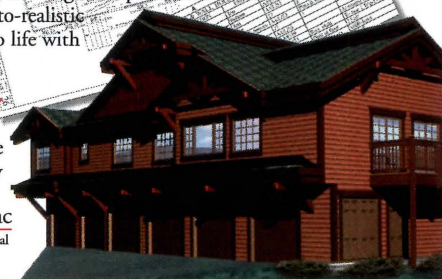
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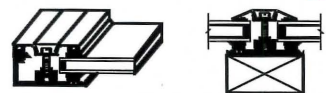
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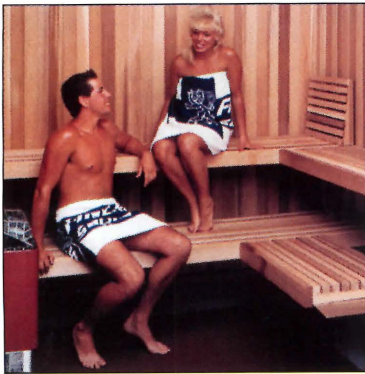
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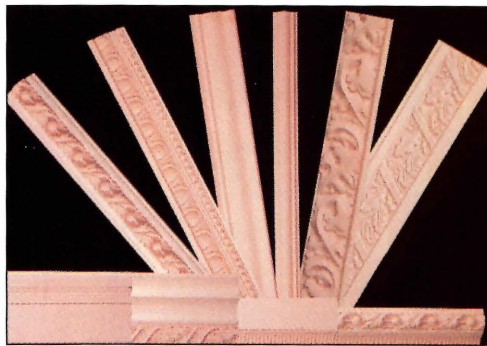
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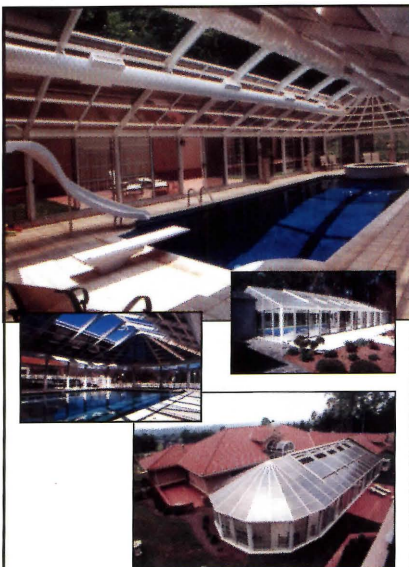
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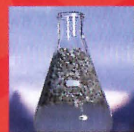
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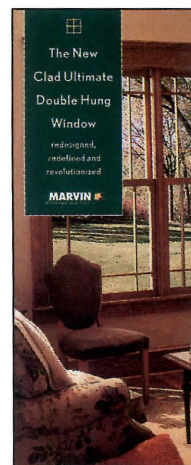
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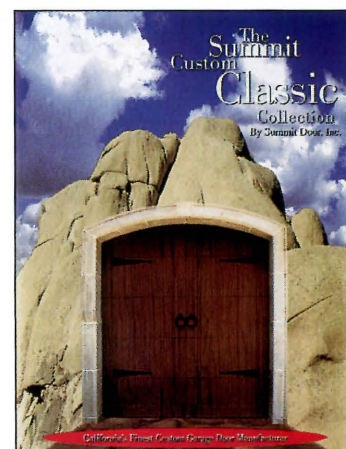
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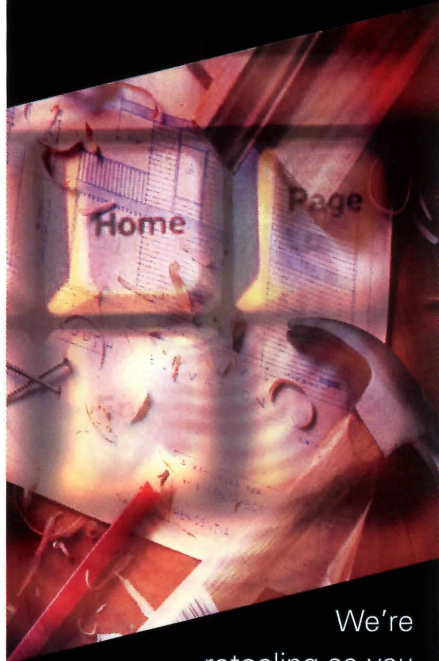
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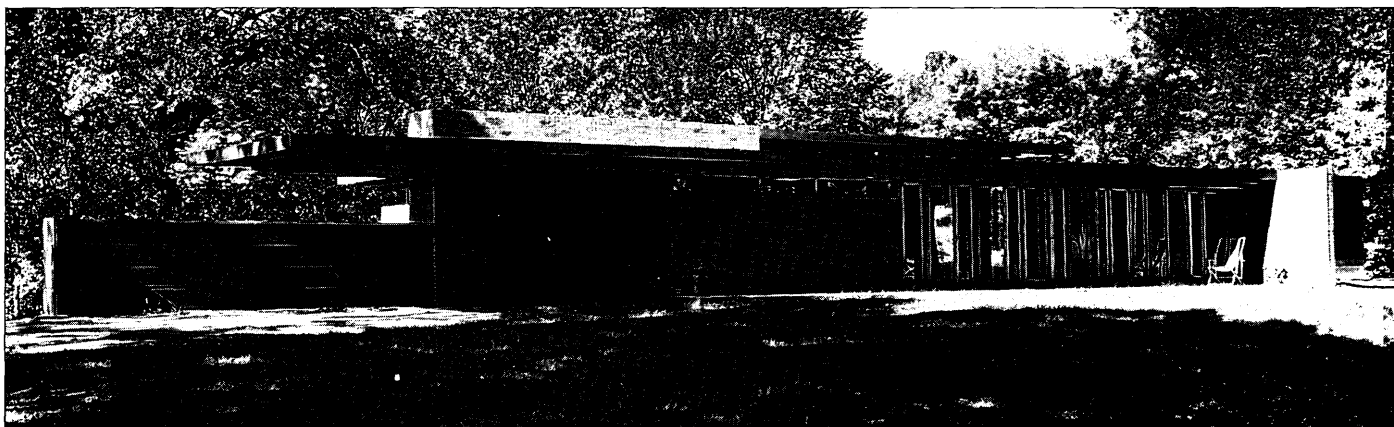
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great houses

family tradition

eric lloyd wright incorporates his grandfather's usonian concepts into his own work.



Photos: Hedrich Blessing for the Chicago Historical Society

much of the beauty of Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian Houses lies in the straightforward elegance with which they were planned. A unit system is applied in the horizontal and vertical planes, giving guidance to the designer in laying the home out, as well as providing a human scale. Using the same unit in different ways develops detail and visual interest.

The Usonian House is well represented in the 1939 Goetsch-Winckler House (shown above), in Okemos, Mich., with its articulated simplicity and open plan

that melds interior and exterior.

In my work, I utilize grids and unit systems to organize and relate my plans and elevations. I keep the lines uncomplicated and use varied roof heights and overhangs to break up masses into a human scale. The Usonian Houses designed by my grandfather guide me in an effort to create architecture that is beautiful in its simplicity and economy. **ra**

Eric Lloyd Wright is principal of Eric Lloyd Wright Architects & Planners, in Malibu, Calif.