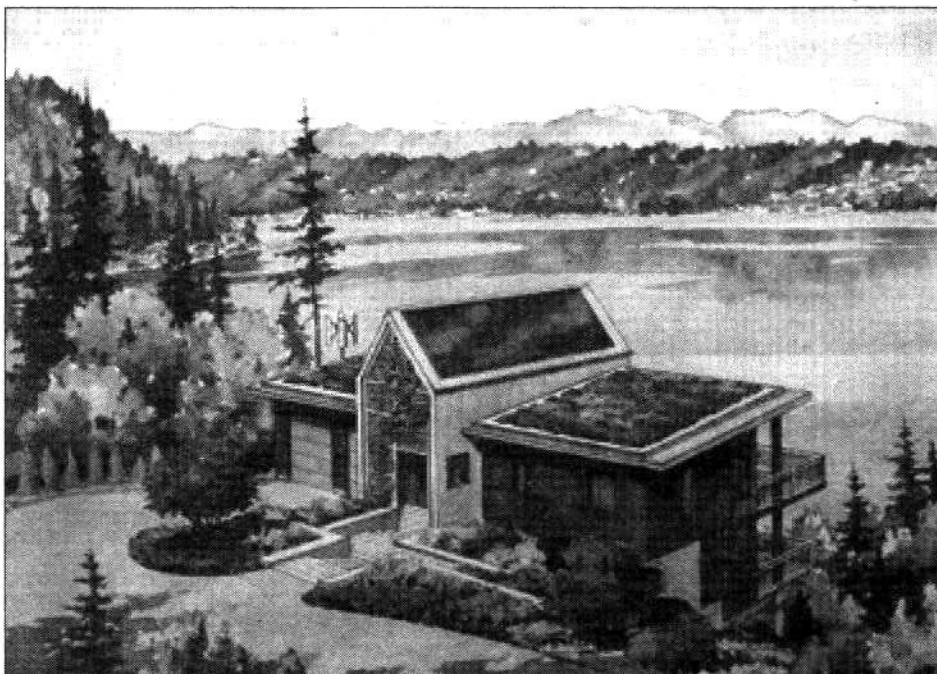


Zero energy "Idea House" being built in Bellevue



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With dual goals of arriving at net zero energy usage and showing homeowners how they can become more energy independent, Shirey Contracting is building a Zero Energy Idea House.

The demonstration project is under construction at Bass Cove, just off West Lake Sammamish Parkway in Bellevue. The 1,700-square-foot, two-bedroom house, designed to "show that smart choices can result in a home that minimizes energy use while maximizing comfort and style," will

be open for public and industry tours in early 2009.

Current estimates project the home's annual energy cost at no more than \$500, or an average of about \$40 per month. To achieve this, the design incorporates energy efficiency features, water conservation features, sustainably produced and durable materials, plus low impact site development and natural landscaping.

The home will consume significantly less energy due to the use of structural insulated panels (SIPs), which are a highly

energy efficient and cost effective alternative to traditional stick framing and fiberglass insulation. The high level of insulation provided by SIPs means the amount of energy used to heat and cool the home will be cut by as much as 50 percent.

Photovoltaic (PV) solar panels will provide most of the home's power, while a 1,200-square-foot vegetated "green" roof, ENERGY STAR® lighting, windows, and appliances, and in-floor radiant heating will make the residence extremely energy-efficient.

The home will also be equipped with an energy monitor that displays energy input and output in real-time, a tool that will be key in helping homeowners modify their energy consumption habits.

The purpose of the demonstration project, designed by Clinkston Brunner Architects of Seattle, is to demonstrate how lifestyle changes, coupled with home modifications and technologies, can reduce utility costs.

The project will be thoroughly documented during design and construction via a Web site (www.zeroenergyideahouse.com), progression photography, educational presentations, media outreach, and public and building industry tours.

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