

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development office of Policy Development and Research

# **Design for Affordable Housing:** Cost Effective/Energy Conserving Homes



Foreword

The most troublesome housing problem facing the American family today is affordability. One of the ways HUD is addressing this problem is through the "Joint Venture for Affordable Housing," a demonstration project that involves the housing industry, State and local governments and the Federal Government working in partnership to make housing more affordable. The "Joint Venture" has used streamlined regulations and processing procedures, carefully developed site plans, and cost saving construction technologies to build housing at lower cost.

Many of the techniques used have resulted from past research and demonstration projects, some of which also produced house plans. This catalog presents a range of designs that fit today's lifestyles, and help to make housing more affordable for all Americans. I am pleased to present it for your use.

Samuel & Please Jr. Scene The plans in this catalog and the drawings available for sale were compiled by Steven Winter Associates, Inc., under contract to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, neither of whom warrants the accuracy, merchantability or fitness of these drawings and specifications. Users are cautioned that local site, code, climatic and seismic requirements may necessitate alternative designs or details.

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Steven Winter Alexander Grinnell Susan Rothenberg

Steven Winter Associates February, 1982

## **Design for Affordable Housing:** Cost Effective/Energy Conserving Homes

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#### Introduction

The objective of this house plan catalog is to make available to builders, designers, and the general public "affordable" house plans and construction drawings that have been developed through federally funded research programs.

Ordering information for these House Plans can be found on the last page of this catalogue.

In the process of preparing this catalog, federal departments, government supported laboratories, independent establishments and government sponsored corporations were researched to obtain appropriate plans. In order for plans to be selected it was required that they be:

- Representative of small or efficiently designed houses.
- Cost-effective in detailing and construction methods.
- · For construction with conventional materials.
- Energy efficient. The catalog was oriented primarily toward non-solar homes, although a number of houses which indicated optional passive and active solar technologies were included.
- Single family attached or detached houses.
- Representative of varying regional style preferences.
- Available with working drawings (a number of federally sponsored programs produced design proposals without construction details).

Not surprisingly, the federal departments that generated the most qualifying plans were respectively the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Energy (DOE). Both departments have had an ongoing commitment to affordable, energy efficient housing. Some departments, such as the Department of Defense (DOD), have sponsored interesting and technologically innovative research test houses, but they are not included here as they are considered too specialized to be of broad interest.

Another federal department which for many years produced and disseminated house plans is the Department of Agriculture. Since these plans are oriented toward the rural homeowner and are publically available through the Farmer's Home Administration Plan Service, they have not been included in this catalog.

For those interested in obtaining additional plans, other governmental plan services include:

Tennessee Valley Authority Architectural Design Branch 400 Commerce Ave. Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

Appalachian Regional Commission 1666 Connecticut Avenue Washington, DC 20235 HUD USER P.O. Box 280 Germantown, Maryland 20874

Solar Energy Research Institute (SERI) 1617 Cole Boulevard Golden, Colorado 80401

State Energy Offices

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# A1/Building Value Into Housing I

sq. ft.: 648 Program: Building Value into Housing Designer: David Knepper Contractor: Rural America, Washington, DC Sponsor: HUD *Purpose:* To foster the use of innovative design, construction techniques and materials that would lead to marketable houses with reduced construction costs, low maintenance and energy conserving ideas.



The house illustrated is one of three minimal "starter" homes designed to be expandable by means of subsequent additions. Construction drawings include plans for the three configurations: A. a one bedroom 16' x 20' module; B. a two bedroom 18' x 20' module; and C. a 20' x 20' three bedroom module. Simple, basic framing and cost effective construction detailing have been specified with the intent that these houses could be owner-built. A pier foundation reduces the need for site excavation.

#### First floor











south

Second floor





Section

## A2/Approach '80 I

sq. ft.: 782 Program: Approach '80 Contractor: National Association of Home Builders Sponsor: NAHB, HUD *Purpose:* To demonstrate to the nation's builders, developers and local public officials that land development and housing costs can be reduced, without a corresponding lowering of the quality of life.



#### Compact and efficient, this two bedroom home was designed for zero lot line planning with an emphasis on privacy.

The living room and bedroom open onto a recessed deck, and serve to open the internal circulation to the outside while restricting the view from neighboring homes. The construction drawings reflect current cost-effective framing practices, underfloor plenum heating/cooling systems, and pressure treated wood foundation techniques.



# A3/Building Value Into Housing II

sq. ft.: 825 Program: Building Value into Housing Designer: Jane Galblum; Ed McGrath, Consultant, Fairbanks, Alaska Contractor: Superinsulated Homes, Inc. Sponsor: HUD

*Purpose:* To foster the use of innovative design, construction techniques and materials that would lead to marketable houses with reduced construction costs, low maintenance and energy conserving ideas.



Designed for energy efficiency in an arctic climate, this house demonstrates the concept of superinsulation. Superinsulation is a double-walled construction technique which allows for the installation of greater than normal amounts of insulation in the walls, ceilings, and floors. The functionally well-defined living, dining and kitchen spaces are visually open and oriented to the south to take maximum advantage of solar gain. Small bedroom windows appear larger through the use of angled adjacent wall surfaces.

# Floor plan bedroom bedroom air lock rentry living

#### Elevations



front



Section



## A4/Building Value Into Housing III

sq. fr.: 840 Program: Building Value into Housing Designers: Richard Larry Medlin, AIA, Tucson, Az.; William Wilde, FAIA, Tucson, Az., Consultant Sponsor: HUD

*Purpose:* To foster the use of innovative design, construction techniques and materials that would lead to marketable houses with reduced construction costs, low maintenance and energy conserving ideas.



The Medlin house is designed to interact with the seasonal and daily climatic variations of the arid southwest. Sliding glass doors lead to shaded adjacent exterior patios, extending rooms outdoors. The sloped ceilings create natural convection currents of rising warm air, which are expelled in the summer and recirculated in the winter.

Elevations

Modularized, this house is designed for quick on-site construction with steelframed sandwich wall panels and a prefabricated utility core. This plan can be adapted to post and beam as well as to conventional wood framing.





back



# A5/Optimum Value Engineered House

sq. ft.: 952 Program: Optimum Value Engineered House Designer: NAHB Research Foundation, Inc., Washington, DC Sponsor: HUD, NAHB Research Foundation, Inc., Washington, DC *Purpose:* To demonstrate the potential cost-savings of the design and construction concepts developed under the Optimum Value Engineered Building System research program.



The OVE house was designed as a small, basic home that would be economical to build and maintain.

Hallways are minimized by combination with living and dining/family rooms. A compact core backed up to the kitchen and bathroom provides significant cost savings over other plan arrangements. The construction drawings illustrate the OVE building techniques, including 24'' o.c. framing, single top plates, box beam headers, and  $22\frac{1}{2}''$  windows to fit between studs.







## A6/Building Value Into Housing IV

sq. ft.: 968 Program: Building Value into Housing Designer: CLB Associates, Inc., Architects/Planners, Kirkland, Wa. Sponsor: HUD *Purpose:* To foster the use of innovative design, construction techniques and materials that would lead to marketable houses with reduced construction costs, low maintenance and energy conserving ideas.



The two story plan is traditionally arranged with upper level bedrooms and lower level living/dining/kitchen spaces. Passive solar concepts integrated into the house include mass walls and floors to retain solar heat, south-oriented glazing, and deep, shading overhangs.

This plan could be adapted to sloping sites; varying solar orientation requirements; house, garage and exterior finish styles; and single family, attached or multifamily configurations.



## B1/Approach '80 II

sq. ft.: 1,000 Program: Approach '80 Designer: National Association of Home Builders, Washington, DC Contractor: National Association of Home Builders, Washington, DC

Sponsor: HUD Purpose: To provide affordable, quality single family housing, incorporating a variety of innovative principles and tech-niques in the design.



Approach '80 II can be built either as an attached 1,400 sq. ft. split level house or as a 1,000 sq. ft. ranch.

The large living room allows for the elimination of corridors, and provides flexibility in furniture and spatial arrangements. This compact house is suitable for construction as a detached or attached residence.

Working drawings indicate in-line floor joists, a pressure treated wood foundation, and 24" o.c. framing on a 2'-0" planning module.



# B2/Approach '80 III

sq. ft.: 1,104 Program: Approach '80 Designer: National Association of Home Builders, Washington, DC Contractor: National Association of Home Builders, Washington, DC

#### Sponsor: HUD

*Purpose:* To provide affordable, quality single family housing, incorporating a variety of innovative principles and tech-niques in the design.



Compact and efficient, Approach '80 III is a modern two story house that reflects the increasing use of zero-lot line planning strategies. This 1,104 sq. ft. house demonstrates economical design and construction practices including 24" o.c. planning modules with 24" o.c. stud spacing, a glue-nailed plywood floor system and in-line floor joists.



# **B3**/Minimum Energy Dwelling

sq. ft.: 1,109 Program: Minimum Energy Dwelling Designer: Southern California Gas Company Contractor: Mission Viejo Company, Mission Viejo, Ca. Sponsor: DOE Purpose: To design, construct, and test a compact house with minimum energy consumption requirements.



This southwest style house is characterized by deep porches, overhangs, a tile roof, and stuccoed walls.

The plan is oriented towards a patio lifestyle through the use of kitchen and bedroom sliding glass doors which open onto

adjacent outdoor decks. These decks connect indoor and outdoor living spaces and increase the apparent size of the house.





## B4/Cost Buster

sq. ft.: 1,120 Program: Cost Buster Contractor: National Association of Home Builders, Washington, DC; Dudley Smith, Builder Sponsor: National Association of Home

Builders Research Foundation, Inc., Washington, DC Purpose: To demonstrate modern, economical construction, free from unnecessary codes and regulations.



This compact, modularly planned ranch style house was designed as an afford-able alternative to larger, conventionally built houses.

The construction drawings document the many innovative design and detailing features, including: 24" o.c. framing,

prefabricated DWV plumbing trees, simplified construction details, and modularized windows.





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#### **B5**/Energy Efficient Residence I

sq. ft.: 1,196 Program: Energy Efficient Residence I Designer: NAHB Research Foundation, Inc., Washington, DC Contractor: NAHB Research Foundation, Inc., Washington, DC

#### Sponsor: HUD

*Purpose:* To demonstrate and measure residential energy conservation potential and cost effective construction through the design and evaluation of a typical new, one-story home.



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The first Energy Efficient Residence (EER I) was designed to maximize fuel savings and decrease construction costs in a plan adapted from a builder's best selling model. The EER I combines a southern orientation and increased insulation with OVE (Optimum Value Engineering) construction techniques to produce a house proven more cost-effective to build and maintain than the original model.

Energy conserving plan features include an airlock vestibule entry and a family room which can be closed off to become a solarium.



#### Floor plan

#### Elevations



back





front



## **B6**/Building Value Into Housing V

sq. ft.: 1,312 Program: Building Value into Housing Designer: Jim Jamison, Valdosta, Ga. Contractor: Minchew Homes Corporation, Valdosta, Ga. Sponsor: HUD

Purpose: To foster the use of innovative design, construction techniques and materials that would lead to marketable houses with reduced construction costs. low maintenance and energy conserving ideas.



Designed by a builder with a reputation for economical, efficient homes, the floor plan of this house is well organized with a minimum of wasted space. It has been planned on a module for cost effectiveness in material usage, and simplicity of construction.

The house is designed to be constructed of many cost saving techniques including

 $2'' \times 6''$  framing @ 24'' o.c., two stud corners, drywall clips, and itemized lumber and materials cutting lists. Exterior finishes and materials can easily be altered to provide for style preferences in different parts of the country.



## **B7**/Denver Metro Program I

sq. ft.: 1,334 Program: Denver Metro Program Designers: Brothers Redevelopment Corporation; Alan Brown, Architect Sponsor: Solar Energy Research Institute *Purpose:* To design a zero lot line house for an urban corner site, incorporating the planning consideration of outdoor privacy and passive solar energy collection and storage.



This passive solar house reflects an unconventional linear plan with all rooms oriented to a sunlit, mass wall corridor on one side and a courtyard on the other. Planned for high density land use, the house can utilize zero lot line sites. The exterior is designed with finishes typical of the southwest style, including stuc-

coed walls and projecting wooden downspouts. Deep overhangs shade interior rooms during the summer, and allow solar penetration during the winter.



#### **B8**/Building Value Into Housing VI

sq. ft.: 1,504 Program: Building Value into Housing Designers: Huth Westwood Builders and Environmental Design Alternatives – Architects, Akron, Oh. Contractor: Huth Westwood Builders

#### Sponsor: HUD

*Purpose:* To foster the use of innovative design, construction techniques and materials that would lead to marketable houses with reduced construction costs, low maintenance and energy conserving ideas.



The bi-level Huth Westwood house is organized around a mid-level, double height sunspace which serves as an airlock entry, a sitting area and a solar heat collector. The sunspace also provides light and a visual focus for the upper level living room.

This house is designed on a 2 foot module for conventional or panelized construc-

tion, and is detailed with an all-weather wood foundation and other cost savings features.





west



north

Section



## **B9**/Cycle 4 Demonstration

sq. ft.: 1,515 Program: Cycle 4 HUD Solar Heating and Cooling Demonstration Designers: Arkansas Ark Builders, Inc., Little Rock, Ar.; Bob Bland, Little Rock, Ar., Solar Consultant Contractor: Winrock Homes, Inc. Sponsor: HUD Purpose: To demonstrate the incorporation of passive solar technology into a contemporary style house which has a popular floor plan.



A contemporary style house with a modern, open plan, the Winrock Homes house was designed to maximize winter solar gain through windows and doors. The kitchen living/dining room is oriented to the south and adjoins an outdoor deck or optional greenhouse. Night insulation and summer shading is provided for all south-facing windows through the use of sliding pocket window shutters in the south wall.



## **B10**/Tennessee Valley Authority I

sq. ft.: 1,578 Program: Solar Homes for the Valley Designer: TVA Solar Applications Branch, Architectural Design Branch Sponsor: Tennessee Valley Authority Purpose: To encourage the development of solar assisted housing in the Tennessee Valley



South (rear) view

A traditional saltbox on the exterior, the TVA I has a contemporary interior and plan.

The interior rooms orient to a south facing great room, which combines the traditional dining, living and family rooms into one multipurpose space. Full height south facing windows allow for maximum solar radiation on the water drums, concrete floor and mass wall, which act as thermal storage. Natural convection in the double height great room carries warm air to upstairs bedrooms.





north



west





# B11/Tennessee Valley Authority II

sq. ft.: 1,664 Program: Solar Homes for the Valley Designer: TVA Solar Applications Branch, Architectural Design Branch Sponsor: Tennessee Valley Authority Purpose: To encourage the development of solar assisted housing in the Tennessee Valley



Designed for construction on a southfacing sloping site, this two-level TVA home is a split one story plan. The lower level double height "great room" serves as a living room, while accommodating the multipurpose family room functions as well. Both the great room and adjacent kitchen are located between thermal mass walls, which absorb daytime solar heat for nighttime radiant warmth. Skylights above the great room provide a window for views to the south from the 2nd floor open hallway.



Elevations south -----north Section



east

## **B12**/Tennessee Valley Authority III

sq. ft.: 1,824 Program: Solar Homes for the Valley Designer: TVA Solar Applications Branch, Architectural Design Branch Sponsor: Tennessee Valley Authority Purpose: To encourage the development of solar assisted housing in the Tennessee Valley



TVA III is a contemporary split-level home with modern, spacious room arrangements.

dining

entry

First floor

**Hukilchen** 

storage

The first floor features a large kitchen/ dining room overlooking a sunken living room. The second floor plan includes two full baths and two bedrooms: the third bedroom is above the garage on the intermediate level. All rooms are ori-

ented toward the south for energy efficiency, natural lighting and solar assisted heating. Optional water storage tubes can be used for solar heat retention and night reradiation.



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## C1/Denver Metro Program II

sq. ft.: 2,200 Program: Denver Metro Program Designer: Rudolph B. Lobato Associates, Longmont, CO Contractor: Heritage Construction and Management Inc. Sponsor: Solar Energy Research Institute Purpose: To encourage the construction of energy conserving, passive solar and active solar homes in the Metropolitan Denver area.



Designed to take maximum advantage of available solar energy, the Heritage One house combines many techniques of solar design.

The south elevation has an optional trombe wall and a two story greenhouse. Other optional solar technologies include a rock storage bed, underslab hot air ducts, hot tub solar collectors and a greenhouse waterwall.

The waterwall, vertical mass wall and water storage tubes are centrally located allowing adjacent living spaces to realize full benefit of stored solar energy.





- Color



Elevations

south

Section



Second floor bedrooms bedroom bedroom bedroom

# C2/Cycle 2 Demonstration

sq. ft.: 2,607 Program: Cycle 2 HUD Solar Heating and Cooling Demonstration Designer: The Mithune Associates, Seattle, Wa. Contractor: Washington Natural Gas Co.

#### Sponsor: HUD

*Purpose:* To establish solar energy as a usable energy alternative, and to encourage the use of solar energy by the designer, the builder and the consumer in residential applications.



South (rear) view

Dramatic in both plan and elevation, the Washington Natural Gas house features flowing spaces, angled walls and southfacing balconies.

On the first floor a curved freestanding cabinet acts as both a room divider and a multi-purpose storage unit. The unusually shaped rooms and curved stairwell accent the contemporary styling. The house is designed with an angled solar collector wall which supplies hot air to the basement rock storage bin.



## C3/Brookhaven House

sq. ft.: 3,022 Program: National Thermal Storage Research Project Designer: Total Environmental Action, Inc., Harrisville, NH Sponsor: Department of Energy and Brookhaven National Laboratory *Purpose:* To demonstrate how thermal mass materials can be used to cut heating costs in conventional single family housing.



South view

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The gabled noofs, arched fan window, use of ponches, and the centrally organized kitchen all reflect historic precedents. The optional south facing sunspace provides a 'conservatory' link between dining and living nooms, and acts as a passive solar collector.













west





# C4/Energy Efficient Residence II

sq. ft.: 3,052 Program: Energy Efficient Residence II Designer: NAHB Research Foundation, Inc., Washington, DC Contractor: NAHB Research Foundation, Inc., Washington, DC

#### Sponsor: HUD

*Purpose:* To demonstrate and measure residential energy conservation potential and cost effective construction through the design and evaluation of a typical, new, two-story home.



The second Energy Efficient Residence (EER II) is a two story house, designed to demonstrate energy conserving detailing and (OVE) Optimum Value Engineering construction techniques. This contemporary styled house is divided into an upper level living room and master bedroom and lower level secondary bedrooms/guest rooms oriented around a family room. The solarium additions to the living room and family room act as solar collectors. Other energy conserving features include an optional rock storage bed to store solar heat gain, and a partially bermed lower level.



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	I	B11	Tennessee Valley Authority II13 18x24 sheets	\$45
	I	B12	Tennessee Valley Authority III-10 18x24 sheets	\$35
		C	Large Size Houses (Over 2,000 sq. ft.)	
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