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7. A NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY OF THE DESIGN FEATURES AND CONCEPTS OF  
8. THE SASKATCHEWAN CONSERVATION HOUSE

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On behalf of  
ALL members of the Design Working Group

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## INTRODUCTION

The idea of building the Saskatchewan Conservation House was first conceived in the summer of 1976 under the joint initiative of the Saskatchewan Department of Mineral Resources, the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation and the Saskatchewan Research Council. Although several energy-conserving houses had started to appear across Canada at that time, it was felt that there was a need to build a demonstration house suited to Saskatchewan's climate. More importantly, in view of all the high budget demonstration houses then in existence, there was an obvious need to show that energy conservation measures could be applied to the type of housing that the average home owner could afford.

A project was therefore initiated to design and build an energy-conserving demonstration house. The main aim was to build a house of modest size at a reasonable cost, with the maximum reasonable level of energy conservation. Because of demonstrational requirements, custom-made innovative features and other factors, the house could not be regarded entirely as a mass-housing prototype - but it would come close to it, and many of the design features would be applicable to mass housing.

A management committee was set up to control the project, an architect was appointed and a design working group was established. This last group was responsible for designing and specifying the various energy-conserving features of the house, and was comprised of experts in house design from the universities, building trades and government. The names of those participating in the design stage are given at the end of this summary.

The construction of the house is well advanced at the time of writing, and it is estimated that all will be complete by the beginning of 1978. Once the house is complete it will be used partly for demonstrational purposes and partly for monitoring energy usage under typical family occupation. The public and interested trades will be encouraged to visit the house, which will be provided with a display area and brochures dealing with energy conservation in housing.

In this summary we shall review the various energy-conserving features of the house in a non-technical way; giving a brief outline of some of the considerations that led to the selection of each feature. A more detailed and technical summary will be available shortly for those who wish to inspect the design procedures more closely. Also, various members of the design working group will be preparing scientific papers dealing with particular aspects of the house design. These will be available in report form, or as papers to be presented at forthcoming conferences.

## THE ECONOMICS OF ENERGY CONSERVATION IN HOUSING

It is impossible to discuss the design of an energy-conserving house without

