



Perched on columns, the futuristic designs of the Eureka can be easily adapted to produce any sized home on any site.

This luxurious model with 300 square metres of floor space and four balconies was built in the West Indies.

high quality insulating products, the Archimedes' method also eliminates heat bridges.

Another advantage is that the mineral wool used for insulation in conventional construction tends to promote internal convection currents of hot and cold air that reduce its efficiency, while the rigid insulation used in the Archimedes house does not have this drawback. Also, as the insulation in the Archimedes house is the closed cell type, it is waterproof and therefore does not require a vapour barrier.

The pressure spraying process done on site to seal the panels together is so thorough that a humidifier is not needed. Windows are moulded into walls at the factory leaving no cracks to let in air.

The houses are electrically heated, the humidity level controlled by means of a hydrostat installed beside the thermostat. A central convector filters and distributes the forced air

under the floor, keeping the house and contents at a constant temperature. This system makes the floor comfortably warmer than the ambient air. Because of their composition, the walls of the Archimedes houses are neither cold in winter nor hot in summer. A central air conditioning system can be easily integrated with the heating and dehumidifying system.

Sales at home and abroad

Construction of Archimedes houses in Canada began in 1980 and, until 1983, Les Systèmes Archimède sold about ten houses annually. Since 1983, sales have increased rapidly and, in February 1984, the company completed a \$54-million contract for the construction of 40 residences in a deluxe hotel complex near the Mont Sutton Ski Centre in Quebec. More recently, the company has built 30 co-op units in Boucherville, Quebec.

Outside Canada, one of the firm's first

contracts involved building five houses on the coast of Saint Martin's Island in the West Indies.

Les Systèmes Archimède's latest contract was signed with Hexadif, a construction company in France. The contract, valued at some \$6 million, involves the sale of 1 670 leisure units for two holiday villages, one on the south coast in the province of Var and the other on the west coast in the province of Charente-Maritimes. Building is being done in two phases, one scheduled for completion in March 1986, the other to end in March 1987.

World representation

Hexadif has also been named the international representative for Les Systèmes Archimède and this agreement has led to contract discussions in China, Brazil and the Caribbean as well as the introduction of information campaigns in Bolivia and the Middle East. Hexadif representatives said that a contract is about to be signed with a major hotel chain in the United States.

Serge Maheux, the firm's general manager, said that as a result of the agreement with Hexadif, exports will account for more than 90 per cent of company sales.

Mr. Maheux suggested that one of the main reasons for success in exporting is that the company concentrates on selling to countries where the houses are perfectly suited to the steep-sloped terrain or to the climate. He also pointed out that, while it may take two or three years to build an average-size conventional house, an Archimedes house can be erected in only three months. The costs of both types of houses are comparable.



The Archimedes model Alpha erected on a lower level.