

# Canada Reports

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Canadian builders and building product firms are introducing unique designs and improved methods of construction at an ever increasing rate. One of the most recent and innovative modern residences, the Archimedes house, is featured in this issue. Also, some of the newest building products and latest techniques in timber-frame construction, which will be displayed at two international trade fairs, are outlined in an article on page 6.

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Happy  
New Year

## Futuristic features in Archimedes house

One of the most *avant-garde* houses on the residential market, the Archimedes house, constructed by Les Systèmes Archimède Inc. of St.-Frédéric, Quebec, has earned the 1984 Habitas Award, a business of the year prize for house construction at the Salon National de l'Habitation, Quebec.

The houses, which are among the most technologically advanced residences available today, are acclaimed for the quality of their construction, their commercial potential, their architectural originality and their thermal efficiency.

### Advanced concepts

Archimedes houses are an attempt to give residential buildings qualities found in aircraft, automobiles and electronic items. The standardized, modular design can be modified to produce numerous shapes. Windows can be added or taken away from the panels to suit the nature of a particular site or sun conditions without disrupting the factory production.

Inspired by modular design, the concept of the Archimedes house combines ele-

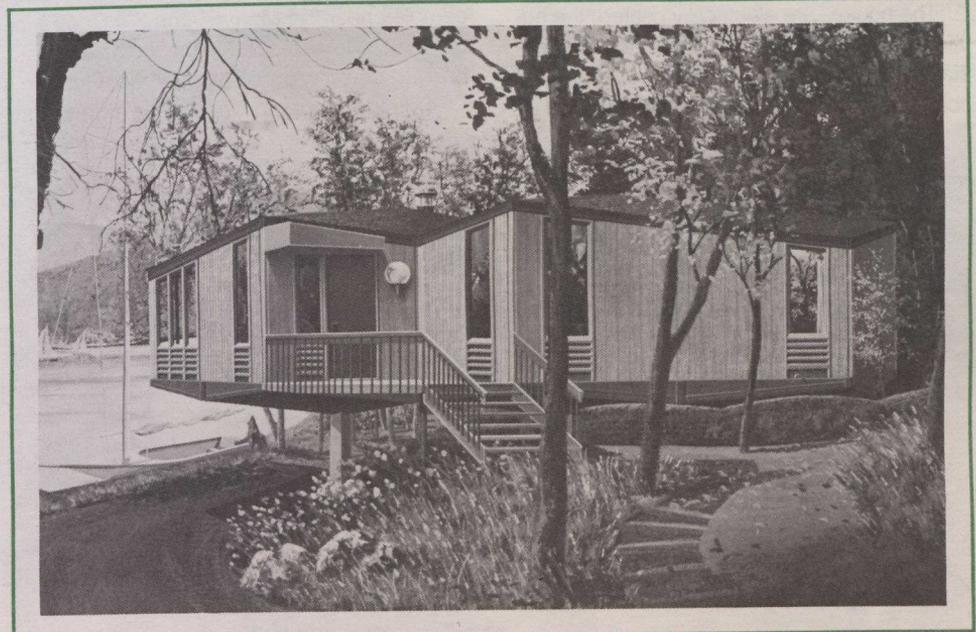
ments of the prefabricated house with that of the conventional home.

The houses are built on columns and assembled on site. They can be constructed on virtually any type of location including mountainous terrain or inundated areas. Each residence can be enlarged or dismantled for relocation.

Basic construction consists of an outer shell of panels for the roof, walls and floors. They are made in a factory by a process similar to the one used to build refrigerator trucks, which is so finely honed that panels of unprecedented precision can be produced.

### Energy efficient

The Archimedes insulating method consists of injecting rigid insulation into the panels and hardening it under 50 tonnes of pressure. This technique eliminates the need for nails and screws. The stud-work required with conventional construction is not necessary. This is very important because the wooden posts of an ordinary house draw heat to the outside. Thus, as well as saving money by the use of



Adaptable to any location, the Archimedes model Delta will be built in France as part of the \$6-million agreement signed with the French construction company, Hexadif.



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