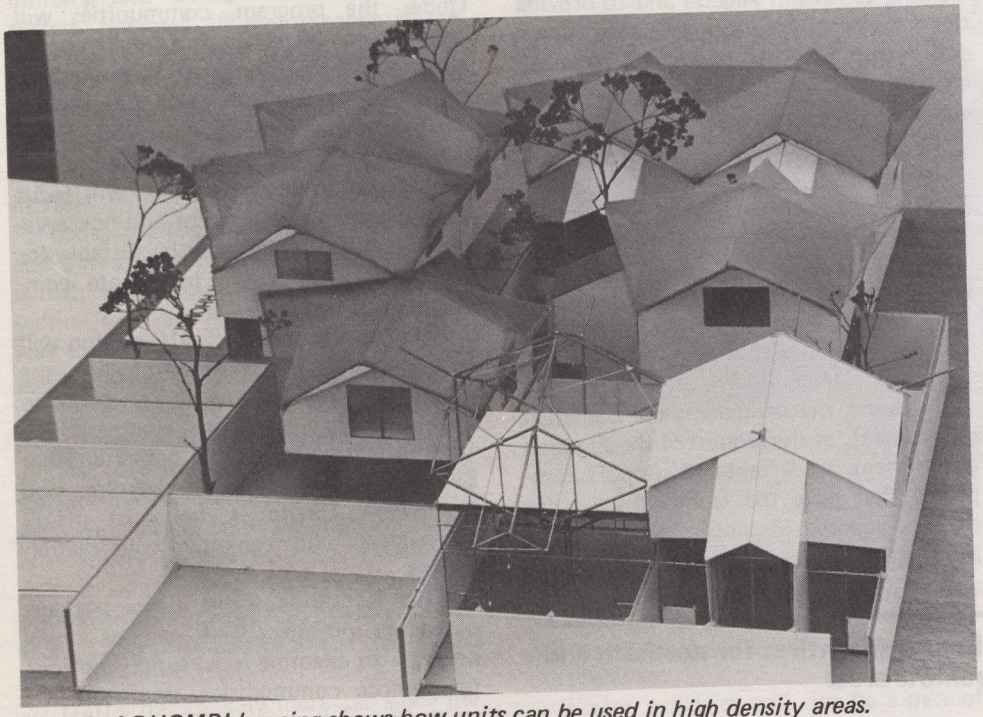
Cool housing designed for tropical climates



Model of RHOMBI housing shows how units can be used in high density areas.

Two Canadian university professors have designed a dwelling that may help meet the urgent need for increased housing in the world's tropical countries.

Known as the RHOMBI, the building is a structure of unusual angles supported by a single steel column and shaded from the sun by a fly-roof.

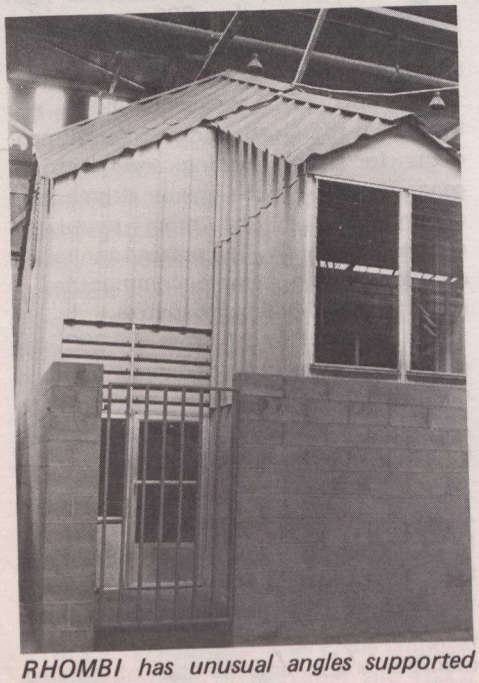
The building was designed by professors James Strutt and Gulzar Haider of Carleton University's school of architecture in Ottawa. Professor Strutt said the RHOMBI may be the solution to problems of providing mass housing in underdeveloped countries because it is inexpensive, easily and quickly assembled by unskilled workers and is rot, mildew and rodent-proof.

A prototype of the house, on display at a building trades show in Montreal last year, has brought requests for a number of orders. The Venezuelan government has put in two requests, one for 1 000 units, and another for 6 000. Several oil company unions and governments in other South American countries and Mexico have also expressed interest in the RHOMBI.

The advantages of the RHOMBI design are that it makes use of a very simple joint and has fewer members and supports than a traditional cubic building.

The basic design is easily adaptable — the RHOMBI can range from one to three storeys and contain one to four bedrooms. In addition, the design allows for very dense housing — between 44 and 72 dwellings *per* hectare, while still providing privacy for individual families.

To adapt it to hot climates, the RHOMBI has high, vented ceilings and a louvre system which provides for controlled air movement throughout the house. A silicon fly-roof provides a sunbreak and shade.



RHOMBI has unusual angles supported by a single steel column.

DESCON Canada photos

Canadian studies office opens

The Association for Canadian Studies in the United States (ACSUS) has opened its secretariat in Washington, D.C.

Founded in 1971, ACSUS was established to promote interest in Canadian studies at educational levels and in all disciplines.

ACSUS members come from a number of academic and non-academic institutions throughout the United States and Canada. The association published a biannual newsletter containing information on conferences, seminars and publications in Canadian studies. In addition, ACSUS puts out three issues of an interdisciplinary journal, *The American Review of Canadian Studies.*

Through regular mailings, members are informed of Canadian studies programs in the United States and Canada.

For further information about the association contact: Dr. Ellen Reisman Babby, Executive Officer, the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Suite 225, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Eldorado acquires mineral company

Eldorado Nuclear Limited of Ottawa will become one of the largest uranium producers in Canada with the acquisition of Gulf Minerals Canada Limited of Toronto.

Eldorado, a Crown corporation, said an agreement has been reached to buy all the shares outstanding of Gulf Minerals from Gulf Oil Corporation of Pittsburgh in return for uranium concentrates from Eldorado's inventory.

The purchase will give Eldorado annual uranium production capacity of 2.4 million kilograms a year, all from holdings in northern Saskatchewan.

Eldorado will acquire Gulf Minerals' 46 per cent stake in the Rabbit Lake uranium mine and mill, a 90 per cent interest in the nearby Collins Bay B deposit, and substantial holdings in the Collins Bay A deposit and the Eagle Point deposit. Eldorado will also take over as operator of the Rabbit Lake Mine.

Eldorado already has one-sixth ownership of the Key Lake Mine in Northern Saskatchewan, the largest uranium mine in Canada.

The uranium concentrates Gulf Oil will get from Eldorado will be used to help fulfil commitments in the United States.