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## Energy-saving architectural prize

A Canadian architect recently won a major award in a competition for the design of energy-efficient housing units sponsored by the six New England states in the U.S. and five eastern Canadian provinces.

Douglas Campbell's design of a three-bedroom, two-storey house was the only major Canadian winner of sixty-eight entries that were submitted.

### Exposure to sun

It came as something of a surprise to Mr. Campbell and his colleagues, Cheryl Long and Michel Dubé of Halifax. "We entered it mainly to get into the vocabulary of energy efficiency and were lucky enough that it paid off," said Mr. Campbell.

Their design features a fairly conventional housing unit with three bedrooms upstairs, kitchen, living room and dining room on the main floor, and family room and storage space in the basement.

No windows are contained on the entire north side of the house since that is the side with the least amount of sunshine during the colder winter months. The south exposure has a good deal of window space.

Earth is bermed up on the windward side to provide added protection and the roof is pitched at a steep angle to allow maximum exposure to the sun's rays. The 60-degree angle would permit later installation of solar collection panels if desired.

### Insulation the key

But the key to the unit and the reason it can provide annual operational savings of up to 60 per cent over conventional houses is its insulation.

Mr. Campbell designed it to use a relatively new type of wall material called Cano, manufactured by Truefoam Ltd. of Ontario.

It is basically polystyrene material with building studs incorporated in it. Instead of builders painstakingly hammering up individual studs and filling the empty spaces with insulation, slabs of Cano can be erected quickly and inexpensively.

### Least heat loss

Heat loss, says Mr. Campbell, is substantially eliminated. The house is heated by an air-to-air heat pump incorporating thermal storage rocks in the basement. A unit about the size of a refrigerator takes

in cold air, heats it electrically and circulates it through the house. Excess heat can be stored in the rocks and drawn out later when needed.

In hot summer weather, the system can be reversed to provide air conditioning.

Based on costs in Fredericton, New Brunswick (as set out in the competition), Mr. Campbell's unit would require only \$260 a year for heating, using electricity. The equivalent cost in furnace oil would be \$327; electric baseboard heating would run to \$568.

Campbell calculates that the 1,560-square foot house could be constructed at \$40 a square foot, or roughly for \$60,000, a cost he describes as moderate. Cost for land would be extra.

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## Can-Am seminar on insurance

Canadian and U.S. experts in business, industry, government, education, consumer affairs and journalism met recently in Windsor, Ontario to discuss insurance in North America.

They were attending the twenty-first annual Canadian-American Seminar, organized by the Institute for Canadian-American Studies based at the University of Windsor.

The two-day meeting had as its theme "Insuring North Americans: Challenges for the 1980s". Participants probed insurance issues such as the communication gap between insurer and insured, the escalation of rates and settlements, the role of government intervention, the charges of sex discrimination in insurance policies, and the need to develop innovative packages for the consuming public of the 1980s.

Founded in 1959, the Canadian-American Seminar is designed to promote international understanding by providing a forum for the discussion of social, political and economic issues between Americans and Canadians.

The University of Windsor's proximity to the U.S. border has provided a natural setting for the study of topics concerning U.S.-Canada relations. The advisory board, which guides each year's seminar, is made up of academic, business and political leaders from both the U.S. and Canada.

The Institute for Canadian-American Studies is involved in many activities beyond the annual seminar, including research projects and scholarship funding.

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## Doctors honoured

Two Canadian doctors are among seven winners of the 1979 Gairdner Foundation International Awards for outstanding contributions to medical science.

Dr. Claude Fortier, chairman of the department of physiology at Laval University in Quebec City and president of the Science Council of Canada, receives the foundation's special \$25,000 Wightman Award, established three years ago to recognize "outstanding leadership in medicine and medical science". It is named for Dr. K.J.R. Wightman who died last year and who was its first recipient.

Dr. Charles Scriver of the McGill University-Montreal Children's Hospital Research Centre — and five other scientists, three from the United States and two from Britain — receive awards of \$10,000 each.

The Gairdner Foundation was established in 1957 by the late James A. Gairdner, a Toronto stockbroker.

Dr. Fortier's scientific career has been devoted to the study of the relationships between the central nervous system and glands such as the thyroid, pituitary, sex and adrenal glands. For more than 20 years he has also represented Laval University on provincial, national and international boards.

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## The fight against cancer continues

The Canadian Cancer Society announced recently that a drug for fighting cancer has had good results in experiments with rats and has helped patients at Toronto General Hospital who took the treatment voluntarily.

The drug, called NED 137, works by stimulating the natural defences of the body, prompting it to reject cancerous tissues somewhat as it would reject a transplanted heart.

Forty-five patients were treated with the medication for cancers of the intestines and of the pancreas. In most cases, the disease regressed or stabilized.

The experiments were directed by Dr. Rudolf E. Falk. In future, the drug could be used following regular cancer surgery, radiological treatments and chemotherapy.

The Canadian Cancer Society is located at 77 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1M2.