

Questionnaire "B" Question 1, Annex 1Prince Edward Island ARK

The Prince Edward Island Ark is an expression of emerging concepts of habitat design. As a design concept it responds to the realities of the current energy crisis, of the past or present irrational and non-rational use of resources, of the deleterious social and environmental effects wrought by misuse of science and reflected in technological development and of the influence of bigness - institutional and technological - on societal well-being.

The project was proposed and constructed by the New Alchemy Institute and financed by the Government of Canada and the Province of P.E.I. as a contribution to the 1976 Habitat Conference held in Vancouver. The Ark combines, under a single roof, an experimental facility including a family residence and a commercial greenhouse and fish culture unit. The building is heated entirely from renewable energy, direct solar and wood. A unique hydraulic operated wind power system is still under development. Superfluous power will be fed into the P.E.I. electric grid. Ecologically, the Ark is designed to minimize waste production through recycling or organic materials produced in the greenhouse, aquatic system and the living quarters. This pilot project will also demonstrate how energy-saving technologies can be adapted to serving the needs of a family or small community.