



STYLISH HOME



CREATES MORE ENERGY THAN IT USES



A Burnaby house that is a winner in a national competition to create the most energy-efficient homes in Canada is open for a final cycle of public tours this weekend.

Harmony House, at 7990 Joffre Avenue, Burnaby, was chosen in Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Equilibrium project as representing the cutting-edge of energy conservation. The large house, designed by Chris Mattock of Habitat Design+Consulting and built by Insightful Healthy Homes, of Vancouver, generates more energy than it uses,

"This is a zero-energy home," explained a CMHC spokesperson, who has been leading month-long tours of the house. The last tours are held this Saturday and

Sunday.

All 15 Equilibrium homes across Canada are open to both the general public and professional audiences for tours, and then monitored for performance by CMHC for one year, once occupied by the owners. The Harmony House is one of two in B.C. – the other was completed last year in Kamloops.

The Harmony House team has integrated optimal solar orientation, energy efficiency and renewable energy systems, and natural materials with low levels of pollutants into the design and construction of the home.

Photovoltaic (solar) panels produce as much electrical energy as the house consumes on an annual basis. A "green switch" will turn off all unnecessary circuits at night and when the occupants are out. To reduce water use, landscaping will incorporate indigenous plants

which will be irrigated with captured rainwater.

Other green features in the home include natural materials, such as wood and low-toxicity interior finishes with low level of pollutants, materials with recycled content and foam insulation using non-ozone depleting agents.

It is estimated that the 3,000 square foot house, with a 1,000 square foot basement, cost \$800,000 to build, which is about 15 per cent higher than conventional construction. Some of the materials for the home were donated by suppliers, according to Mattock. The extra cost of construction will be offset over time by the energy savings, he explained.

This weekend is the last chance to tour the home, except by special arrangement. The tours provide insight for all homeowners in ways they can reduce their own energy consumption.