The fast disappearing Acadian cottages of the area may be only mute reminders of what the early Acadian concept of what a home should be like. The early Acadian settlers did, but using more modern materials and techniques, gave careful thought to making the Michel home energy efficient. Also, the concept of making the home environment as efficient as possible. The windows are on the south side to allow the sun’s rays to penetrate the interior of the house.

Energy Efficient

Thibodeaux, as the early Acadians did, but using more modern materials and techniques, gave careful thought to making the Michel home energy efficient. Also, the concept of making the home environment as efficient as possible. The windows are on the south side to allow the sun’s rays to penetrate the interior of the house.

Windows throughout the house are casement windows allowing them to open at any angle so that breezes may be channeled into different spaces of the house.

All exterior walls of the house are constructed of two by six studs with full insulation and one half inch foam board with foil sheathing as a moisture barrier. To allow the ceilings to move as the roof heights do, no attic spaces were formed. Because of this, two by twelve rafters were used with six inch insulation, a four-inch ventilation space and a one-inch foam board covered by a metal roofing material. This metal does not retain heat for as long a period as wood, as occurs in the winter it will tend to heat more quickly than the built-up type.

A solar water heating unit is an added element supplementing the extensive solar elements such as building materials, orientation, overhangs to block the sun’s rays from entering the house in summer but allowing it to enter in winter. There are also two air conditioning units—one for the private quarters of the owners and another for the other areas.

Interior Spaces

To give privacy a fence, yet to be completed will fence off the front yard. Entry to the house is via the carport to the front yard with its brick and deck patio. All outside doors are made of cypress.

The front door opens into the entry way on level two which orients you to the various zones of activity. To the right there is a step down, ground level to the living room. The east wall of the living room has the energy efficient fireplace, banked bookcases. The glass wall to the right faces the front yard. The rear part of the sitting room is the kitchen and the dining room.

Roof is High

The concept of considering the human scale where the roof is particularly high above the entry point. There is a 15-foot high ceiling in the dining room. The entry box is in red wood with spaces above and below it. The kitchen area is also on a level of drawing air for combustion.

Middle Of Farm Land

The house was designed by a third-year USL architecture student. Thibodeaux is a rural area about a mile out of Kaplan on Highway 13. The home of C.J. and Joan Michel, it was designed as an energy efficient house with design concept that included dividing the house into three levels, each with its own zone of activity. Exterior decks and patios rise with each level of the house.

Exterior Structures

The fast disarming fire of overhangs that protect the house from the sun’s rays. The house is constructed of two by six studs with full insulation and one half inch foam board with foil sheathing as a moisture barrier. To allow the ceilings to move as the roof heights do, no attic spaces were formed. Because of this, two by twelve rafters were used with six inch insulation, a four-inch ventilation space and a one-inch foam board covered by a metal roofing material. This metal does not retain heat for as long a period as wood, as occurs in the winter it will tend to heat more quickly than the built-up type.

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