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Passive solar contemporary in Somerset

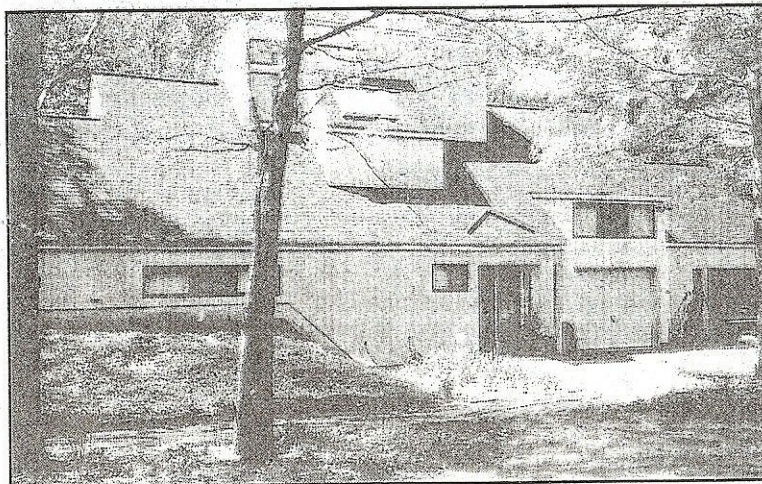
The Somerset Hills may be known for colonial homes and estates, but a custom-built passive solar contemporary in Bernardsville has attracted more than its share of attention — in this country and across the world.

A Japanese magazine was so impressed with the technology of its passive solar features that it featured the Bernardsville home on its pages, said listing agent Carol Garth of the Bernardsville office of Weichert, Realtors.

The Velux Co., a manufacturer of skylights and roof windows, chose for the cover of a sales brochure the media room's "roof window ceiling," which shows a vaulted ceiling lined by eight large skylights that open to let in the fresh air.

And after the contemporary was originally built for owners who needed a home that met Veterans Affairs specifications for the handicapped, Home magazine featured it in an article titled "A Very Special Solar Home."

"This Euro-design contemporary has received much well-deserved fanfare," said Garth, "but to anyone who visits it today, what stands out most is how breathtakingly beautiful a living environment it offers. The architect very skillfully and unobtrusively blended the passive solar and handicapped features into the home's stunning aesthetics."



Passive solar contemporary in Bernardsville

◆ Custom-built residence attracts plenty of attention... **R5**

Nestled in a wooded setting, the country home was designed for its site by the New York architectural firm, Alfredo DeVido Associates. The main deck overlooks a small brook on the property, which is also in view from key areas of the home. A third-floor observation deck provides a view of treetops.

The interior design is focused on bringing the outdoors in, with wide expanses of glass and windowed/skylighted ceilings, said Garth. These details work in conjunction with numerous cathedral ceilings and an open plan living area.

"This acclaimed home is very much in harmony with its site," Garth said.

Among its highlights are a great room with a 26-foot-high ceiling and windowed areas for views, a top-of-the-line kitchen offering commercial quality cooking appliances and custom Quaker Maid cabinetry, and a first-floor master bedroom suite with vaulted ceiling, separate dressing area and a bath with Jacuzzi. The master suite opens to the main deck and also has a window system affording views out to the brook running through a wooded area.

Garth said premium materials were used throughout the residence, which also features numerous designer fixtures and many custom features, such as a built-in display gallery in one of the bedrooms. "Every area of this custom home is special, even the bedrooms. The bedroom with the display gallery, for example, also boasts a vaulted ceiling with opening roof window, its own private sitting area, and 100 square feet of closet space," she said.

The contemporary offers a security system and environmental control. List price is \$399,000.

Call Garth at (908) 766-7447.