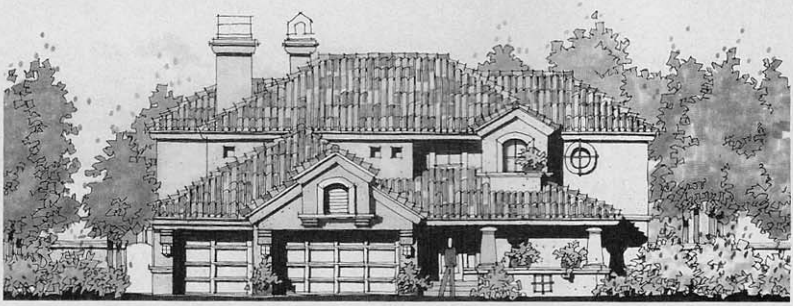
# LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

## TODAY ROCKLIN, TOMORROW THE WORLD

A home incorporating the technology of tomorrow is under construction today—not at the next World's Fair site or Epcot Center, but right up I-80 in Rocklin.

A joint project of the California Energy Commission, The Building Industry Association of Superior California, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company, the Energy Efficient Environment—or E3—is a test lab for new technology. Though the two-story, 2,990-square-foot home in the Sunset Heights area of Stanford Ranch will simply "look like a very nice house" when it is completed in early summer, according to builder Garen McCune of **GLM CUSTOM HOMES,** its construction incorporates design features and high-tech gadgetry aimed at energy efficiency and comfort.

Included in E3's construction are features such as a superinsulated building shell to reduce heating and cooling energy use by up to 70 percent, an attic ventilation system, and high-efficiency heating, air-conditioning and lighting systems. "Smart" heating and cooling systems will communicate with PG&E to take advantage of "off-peak" utility prices by using energy when prices are lower.



DESIGNED BY STUDIO FOUR INC., THIS HOME LOOKS GOOD AND SAVES ENERGY, TOO.

Of particular interest to the California Energy Commission is the issue of proper ventilation in such a tight structure. "The most innovative data we will get, which will be of national interest, relates to the space-conditioning system and ventilation," says energy specialist David Ware. "We will monitor the air quality, test equipment, and see the amount of energy consumed by the backup fans."

Prominent among the home's features will be an automation system with user-friendly touch screens, remote controls and voice commands to operate heating and cooling, lighting, entertainment and security systems.

"The computer will react to verbal commands," says McCune, "to open and close the drapes, turn on the hot tub, all kinds of things. There's even a voice to tell an intruder that he's been sensed and the police have been notified."

The home will belong to McCune, who expects its market value to be approximately $450,000, but PG&E will lease it for three years and run it as a laboratory and demonstration site. The utility expects to invest some $80,000 in technology, plus extras such as drought-resistant landscaping designed to reduce cooling loads.

Not open to the general public, E3 will host tours of builders, architects and others in the industry, as well as politicians, municipal officials and the press. The home will also be occupied for several months to provide real-life experience with the technological advances.