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Here's some paying options

Understanding the ways to pay for a house may be-come difficult, but buyers are finding a new range of options opening up to them.

Late last year, the Feder-al Home Loan Bank Board authorized federally chartered savings and loan institutions it oversees to offer innovative forms of

mortgages:
Included were graduated payment mortgages (GPM), reverse annuity mortgages (RAM) and, in California, (RAM) and, in California, variable rate mortgages (VRM). All represent sub-stantial change from the fixed-rate, fixed-payment, fixed-term loan. That type of loan has been the major instrument for supplying house purchase credit for the last 40 years.

While not yet offered on a broad scale, the new alternative mortgage instruments are expected to grow in use as experience with them demonstrates their value.

"If they find favor in Michigan, the graduated payment mortgage will be of particular interet to young families and first-time buyers," said John Cole, president of the West-ern Wayne Oakland County Board of Realtors.

"The reverse annuity will be a boon to older families on fixed incomes who have watched the value of their property grow along with tax assessments, but who have found it difficult to realize the profits."

The graduated payment mortgage operates on the assumption the borrower's income will increase. Monthly payments start out lower than would be the case for the present widely used conventional mortgage and increase gradually over a five-to-ten year period.

ALTHOUGH BOR-ROWERS generally can qualify for these loans with less income than required for conventional mortgages, they build up little equity during the first stages of repayment. When monthly payments level off, they usu ally are higher than required for conventional loans.

The reverse annuity mortgage would enable owners with substantial equity in their house to generate supplemental income, while retaining ownership.

In this case, the homeown-er would be granted a loan with his or her equity in the Rather than being given out in a lump sum, the loan would be paid to the homeowner in monthly payments over a period of years.

At the end of the term, the

homeowner could sell the house to pay off the loan, or possibly execute another RAM loan using the growth

in equity for security.
"These two types of mortgage instruments are still very much in the trial stage," said Cole.

The variable rate mortgage has been offered in some sections of the country, particularly California, by state-chartered thrift institutions and by state and national banks for a number

of years.
The VRMs appear to be attracting a growing num-ber of advocates who cite experience in California, where closing of such mort-gages brought the total to an estimated \$15 billion.

Under this type of mortgage, the interest rate is allowed to rise or fall, as the cost of money to the lender

Proponents of this type of house mortgage instrument say that, when a house buyer borrows money at a time of high interest rates, it is ine-quitable to have to live with that rate for the full term when the rate may drop sub-

stantially.
At the same time, they note that VRMs offer lenders some protection against unseen rises in his cost of money over the life of a

ternatives often arises over

whether the term refers to

ownership or design. The

term condominium is a good

example; many people think

it refers to a type of struc-

What's a condo?

Cape Cod . . . cooperative . . townhouse . . . singlefamily house . . . condominium . . . apartment . . . bilevel . . .

With such an array of housing types and ownership forms available, first-time house buyers can become confused.

Today, there is a housing alternative for almost every life style. Whether married or single, childless or raising an army, handy or helpless, there is an ownership form and housing type to fit al-

Not so. Condominium refers to a form of ownership. When a person buys a con-dominium, he or she has fee title to the unit lived in, plus a share in ownership of com-mon areas available to all occupants in the development. Campgrounds, mobile

home developments and office buildings - all can be

condominiums.

most anyone's needs. Confusion about these al-

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