

Roof

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Photovoltaic roofing systems likely would supplement rather than replace regular utility service in Michigan, he projected.

A photovoltaic shingle probably would have this flexible stainless steel sheets covered by a thin amorphous silicon solar cell, Hudgens said.

The shingles most likely would be interconnected by wires to collect electrical current produced by the sun's rays.

The current would go via a main feed line, probably to the existing electrical breaker box/meter outside the house, Hudgens said. An inverter would be needed to change the current from direct to alternating.

If not immediately needed, the electricity could be sent along a utility's transmission system and credited to a homeowner's account, Hudgens speculated.

Special interior wiring or switches aren't anticipated.

"It's clearly a question of how far costs are going to come down," said Norm Stevens, principal engineer in resource planning for Detroit Edison.

"The costs won't come down until there's a large demand. It's how do you get a commitment up front until a company is confident enough to place a big order," he said.

■ 'We have to continue to look at new and better ways of doing things. We probably have been lulled to sleep the last few years. Fuel has been cheaper.'

**Fred Capaldi
BASM president**

"I think if it does happen on a large scale, you're talking maybe 10 years down the line," Stevens said.

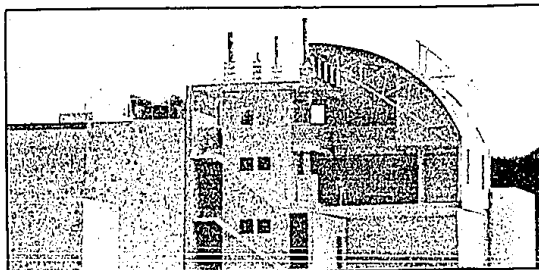
Testing and fine tuning needs to be done prior to the selling.

"We have to work on how to attach it to the roof structure, how to interconnect," Hudgens said. "It had better not require a degree from MIT to install. It must be a robust product because installers will walk on it and throw it around."

"It must be safe. After all, we are dealing with electricity," he said.

"There's always going to be early adapters, people who want a warm and fuzzy feeling knowing they're helping save energy and the planet," Hudgens said. "Ultimately, people are going to make an economic decision."

Alley oop



Renovation plus Architect Karen Swanson of Swanson/Swanson in Bloomfield Hills will be the principal architect of an addition to and renovation of Sparkey Herbert's Catering in Grosse Pointe Park. The project includes the renovation of the existing building consisting of a two-story, 1,850-square-foot building and adding a two-level dwelling with loft resulting in 4,442 square feet.

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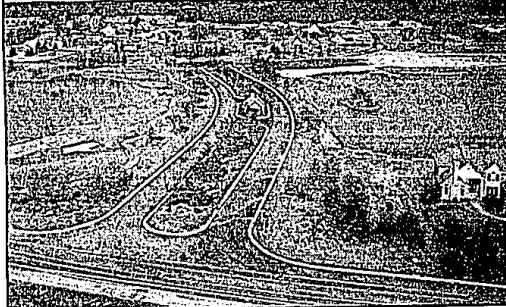
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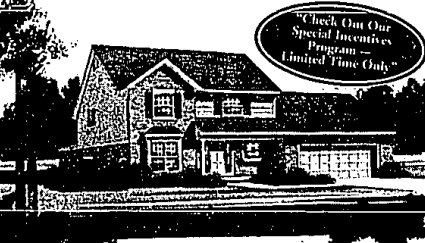
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