

Skylights give spectacular views

(NAPS) — Imagine being able to enjoy spectacular views of starry skies, snowy nights or fall foliage all from inside your own home. Sound impossible? It's not. All you need is a skylight.

Affordable, easy to install and maintain, skylights can brighten up any room while increasing the value of your home. In addition, many manufacturers have taken the suspense out of skylight performance by designing them to be leakproof, energy-efficient and durable. And if you have an old-fashioned single-pane glass skylight or plastic bubble skylight installed you can end frustrating energy loss and possible leaks by simply replacing your outdated skylights with these new weathertight models.

The money you'll save in heating, cooling and home maintenance costs, coupled with the increase in home value, will more than make up for the cost of replacing these older units," says Gary Hyman, marketing manager for Velux-America Inc., a leading manufacturer of roof windows and skylights.

The cost to replace old skylights is often a pleasant surprise to homeowners. According to Tom McKown, president of Skypros, Inc., a firm specializing exclusively in skylight installations, the average cost of replacing a two-foot by four-foot bubble with a fixed skylight (one that cannot be opened) is under \$500 and slightly more for steep or flat roofs.

A ventilating skylight, commonly used in high-humidity areas such as kitchens and bathrooms, costs about \$650 for the same application.

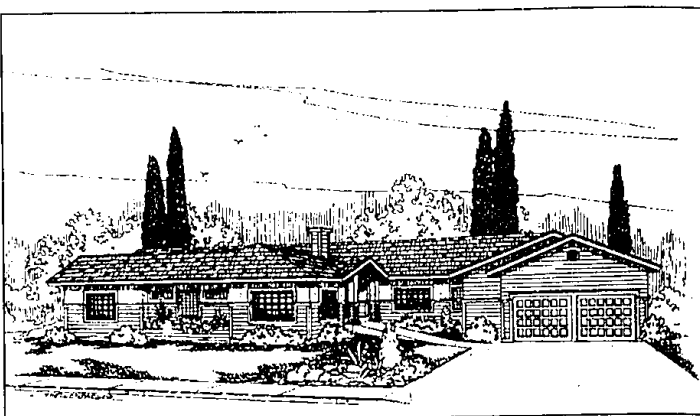
Manufacturers such as Velux are designing skylights with insulated, argon-filled glass panes that feature energy-efficient coatings. These coatings prevent heat gain in summer months by blocking most of the sun's infrared energy from entering the home, and heat loss in winter by reflecting warm air back in the home, reducing heating and cooling bills.

Because skylight flashing (for waterproofing) systems have improved tremendously, skylights can now be easily installed with any type of roofing material including metal, asphalt or fiberglass shingles, slate, cedar shingles and shake, Spanish and concrete tiles.

For the most weathertight and durable skylight installation with thin roofing materials such as asphalt or fiberglass shingles, L-shaped step flashing pieces of roll-formed aluminum are interwoven with the roofing to create a completely watertight seal without caulk or mastic.

For metal and high profile roofs made of concrete or Spanish tile, the installer forms the pliable flashing to the contour of the roofing material for a weathertight seal. Velux recently introduced a line of systems that meet all of these needs while providing an aesthetically-pleasing, low-profile exterior.

For more information and a free copy of The Complete Guide to Roof Windows and Skylights, call toll-free 1-800-283-2831, or write to Velux-America Inc., P.O. Box 5001, Greenville, SC 29618-5001.



The Ponder: This rambling ranch has an unusual design that provides for special entertainment areas and lots of privacy. There is also an extensive deck area for outdoor living. See plan.

Ponder designed for relaxing

The 2482-square-foot Ponder exhibits an unusual floor design that caters to those needing a proportionate amount of relaxation when the work day is done. If you like to have a good time entertaining family and friends, give the Ponder a good look.

An accessible ramp ushers your guests into a generous front foyer. Take a right turn, and you are in the family room/theater. Set up the VCR or projector and there is plenty of room here for the whole gang to enjoy an evening of entertainment. After the show, move over to the dining room, where the built-in buffet is waiting to appease the biggest appetites. Following the trip through the buffet line, step through the sliding glass door and spend a relaxing hour in the Jacuzzi, or find a soft chair in the living room and take a

little rest.

The well-appointed master suite, isolated for privacy, features a large skylit sleeping area, access to the patio, a huge walk-in closet and bathroom with separate toilets and basins. Immediately next to the master suite is a home office. Install a computer and monitor the household accounts, or finish up weekend work that you brought home.

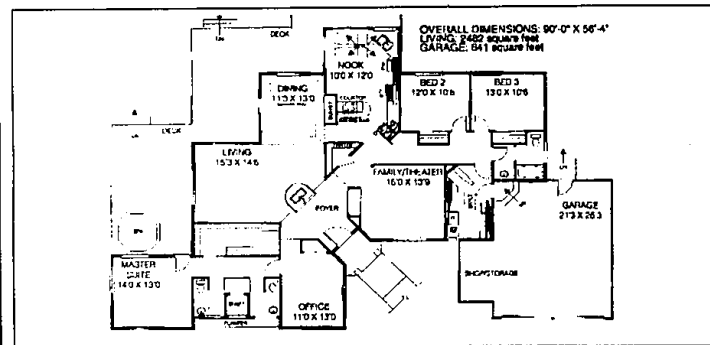
The secondary bedrooms, on the opposite side of the house, are ideal for older children or can serve as accommodations for overnight visitors. A full bathroom is located in the hallway.

The walk-in kitchen, with a skylit breakfast nook extension, provides a bright atmosphere for casual meals. Other kitchen features include garden windows, pantry and double

ovens.

Placed conveniently by the garage is a substantial utility room. There is a built-in ironing board and sink in addition to a wide skylight. Soiled clothes can be dropped off here before entering the house. The two-car garage has an area set aside for a shop and extra storage. The hobbyist in the family can set up a full complement of tools and work without disturbing the rest of the household.

For a study kit of the Ponder (335-240) send \$10 to Landmark Designs, P.O. Box 2307-0E48, Eugene, OR 97402. (Be sure to specify plan name and number). For a collection of plan books featuring our most popular home plans, send \$20 to Landmark, or call 1-800-562-1151.



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