

Trends, innovations are apparent

APPROACHING the 18 homes of 1988 Homearama — Summer, down a winding cul-de-sac in Autumn Ridge subdivision in West Bloomfield, many trends and innovations in home building are apparent.

With an average price tag of over \$350,000, the builders, architects, interior designers and landscapers had budget room to incorporate the latest and greatest features available.

It is apparent that white has become a very popular exterior color, as seen on seven of the homes. The "Saturn" model by C & O Construction & Investment Co. of Farmington Hills combines white brick and white-painted horizontal cedar siding and shows an arresting triple-offset design incorporating a triple garage into the attractive front elevation.

Walking into the basement of the "Saturn," the visitor will find that the walls have 20 different planes, in order to support the intricate, free-form architectural design.

Multiplaned and peaked roof lines are becoming more prevalent. The front view of "The Sheffield" by

Dakota Building Co. of West Bloomfield shows five separate roof levels, and the "Tri-Star" by Northbrook Associates of Rochester Hills show six peaks.

INSULATION HAS BEEN around for a long time. Now comes "outsulation," a new exterior finishing system on walls of "The Biscayne" by L.K. Development Co. of West Bloomfield. Touted as maintenance-free, it consists of a troweled-on acrylic finish over insulation blocks.

With the size of lots in Autumn Ridge, there is plenty of room for inviting courtyards as preambles to the house's main entrance. Rembrandt Construction Inc. of Detroit effectively uses a large, brick-walled courtyard to carry out the French colonial theme of its "Windsor" model.

Around back, the deck's the thing, these days. Benivegna Building Co. Inc. of Farmington Hills and Roux & Associates of Northville have stretched a deck the entire length of the rear elevation of their "Arlington II" model. It is accessible through window walls from the great room,

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dining room and kitchen/dining nook.

It's also apparent from a stroll through 1988 HOMEARAMA — Summer that lots of windows and huge windows are more "in" than ever. Walking up to Detroit Edison's "Bright Idea Home," the "Mento Park" model by Burdge Inc. of W. Bloomfield, the visitor is impressed by a huge, 20-foot-by-22-foot entrance window wall composed of 18 large square panes, around the two towering 10-foot-by-4-foot glass-paneled entrance doors.

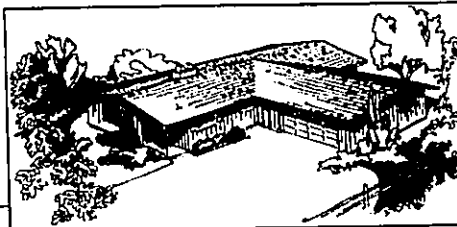
HUGE WINDOWS MELD into sheer glass walls in the aptly named "Looking Glass" model by Koch Development of Bloomfield Township.

Nine-foot-high glass walls in the multi-stepped-out design of the rear walls open up huge vistas of the treed area behind the home.

Not every home in Homearama is trendy. The colonial "Fairhill" model by Bonadeo Builders of Plymouth is staunchly traditional and exhibits fine workmanship and detail. Painstakingly done brick and stone lintels top all of the windows in the front elevation of the solid brick exterior.

The houses will be open to the public from Aug. 4 through Aug. 28, in the new Autumn Ridge subdivision on Orchard Lake Road just north of Walnut Lake Road.

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