

Contemporary-style house provides 3,000 square feet

If you've been looking for a contemporary style home with good looks, affordability and all the advantages an on-the-go lifestyle demands, your search may be at an end. The attractive exterior appeal, combined with an innovative interior design, makes the Delos an outstanding choice.

The floor plan distributes 3039 square feet over a two-story layout that is quite unique. The top floor is a two wing configuration, with the center open to the main level. One wing has two large vaulted bedrooms that share a full bathroom and loads of storage space. A railed walkway leads to the opposite wing where you have a big guest bedroom and a vaulted exercise or recreation room. These rooms are also separated by a full bathroom.

The center of the main level, open to above, has a vaulted entry with a sitting room and a huge family room warmed by a gas fireplace. The kitchen and dining room are open to each other.

The dining room has an optional wet bar and sliding glass doors that access a big deck. The kitchen features an island cooktop, garden window, double ovens, walk-in pantry, appliance center and trash compactor. Between the kitchen and garage are a utility room and half-bath. A convenient recycling center is in the garage along with room for a freezer.

The isolated master suite is loaded with amenities. They include a walk-in closet, private patio and a bathroom with linen storage, raised tub,

two basins and skylit dressing area. Adjacent to the master suite is a combination den and home office. This good-sized room boasts built-in bookshelves, a tray ceiling and two entrances.

The main level concludes with a well-lit sunken parlor. With a fireplace to keep you warm, this is the perfect spot to spend some quiet time with a good book.

For a study kit of the Delos (336-0330L97), send \$10 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 (Be sure to specify plan name & number). For a collection of plan books featuring our most popular home plans, send \$20 to Landmark, or call 1-800-562-1151.

Detroit Edison offers tips for winter storms

Old man winter can bring to southeastern Michigan ice and snow storms that result in unavoidable power outages.

Detroit Edison recommends that customers check fuse boxes for tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses when a power outage occurs. If there are no apparent problems, check to see whether neighbors also are without power. Report power outages by calling Detroit Edison at 1-800-477-4747.

Detroit Edison offers the following suggestions for coping with power outages while the utility works to restore electric service following a major winter storm:

- Open faucets slightly so they constantly drip to prevent pipes from freezing.
- If possible, select a small, well-insulated room with a fireplace, wood stove or fuel-burning heater as emergency living quarters. Hang cardboard or blankets over windows and doorways to minimize heat loss.
- A fuel-burning heater — such as kerosene — requires an area with proper ventilation to prevent buildup of harmful fumes. Keep portable heaters away from furniture, draperies and other flammable materials. Never use a gas range for heating or charcoal as an indoor heating or cooking source. For safety, keep children away from portable heaters or open flames.
- Keep an emergency supply of fuel or

wood handy. For safety, always store fuel in a dry place away from the house.

• Maintain an easily accessible emergency kit. It should include a battery-powered radio, flashlight, extra batteries, first-aid kit, fire extinguisher, bottled water and non-perishable food. Test radios, flashlights and batteries periodically to ensure they are working.

• Ensure that your blanket supply is adequate for extended outages.

• Turn off or unplug all appliances to prevent an electrical overload when power is restored. Leave on one light switch to indicate when power is restored.

• Don't open refrigerators and freezers more often than absolutely necessary. A closed refrigerator will stay cold for 24 hours. Keep closed, a well-filled freezer will preserve food for two to three days.

• Disconnect house circuits from Detroit Edison power lines if using a portable generator.

• During low-voltage conditions — when lights are dim and television pictures are smaller — shut off motor-driven appliances such as refrigerators to prevent overheating and possible damage.

• Listen to local radio stations for updates from Detroit Edison about electric service restoration efforts.

More homes built in '96 than builders expected

DETROIT (AP) — Southeastern Michigan's new-house construction reached 16,614 in 1996 — the highest number of new single-family houses for the area since the 1970s.

A builder's group had predicted about 1,500 fewer houses would be built in 1996 than were actually built.

The figures are expected to be a highlight Tuesday at the annual forecast luncheon of the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan.

New-house building has been on a tear in southeastern Michigan since 1994, when the number of houses built jumped from 12,075 to 15,747. New-house construction continued to climb — to 16,208 in 1995, and now 16,614 in 1996.

About 7 percent of those were in Macomb County's Macomb Township where permits were issued for 1,105 new single-family

houses, up from 764 the previous year.

West Bloomfield Township came in second with 556 new-house permits, and Canton Township was third with 645.

Oakland County hot spots included Orion Township at 470 houses and Novi at 427. Wayne County had 247 new houses in Brownstown Township, 221 in Westland and 210 in Livonia.

For 1997, the southeast Michigan builders' group predicts a fourth straight record year — 17,000 new houses. That's because Michigan's economy is still strong, spokeswoman Nancy Rosen said last week. Also, interest rates are low, and there is a post-up demand from people whose new houses didn't get built during 1996.

Michigan's boom runs counter to national predictions, which called all last year for a slowdown in house building.

Mortgage rates mixed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thirty-year, fixed-rate mortgages averaged 7.67 percent this week, up from 7.64 percent last week, according to a national survey released Thursday by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

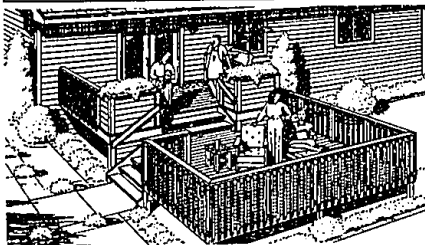
It was the highest since Dec. 19, when rates averaged 7.74 percent.

On one-year adjustable rate mortgages, lenders were asking an average initial rate of 5.56 percent, down from 5.57 percent last week.

Fifteen-year mortgages, a popular option for homeowners refinancing mortgages, averaged 7.18 percent this week, up from 7.16 percent a week earlier.

The rates do not include add-on fees known as points.

The Weekly Do-It-Yourselfer



Fancy deck

Adding a deck will increase the value and improve the appearance of your home. Plans include two sizes for the upper deck and four sizes for the lower deck. Stair, railing and planter

plans are included as well as the plans for optional benches. Two complete sets of the plans are included: one for you or your builder and one for the building department.

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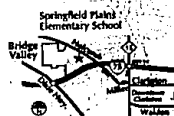
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