An exterior wall insulation and finish system was chosen again this year to lend beautiful form and insulation to the exterior of the NEST Demonstration House, one of the highlights of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Show.

NEST—short for “New Expanding Shelter Technology”—is the brainchild of a consortium comprised of The Housing Information Center in New York City; the award-winning Santa Barbara, Calif., firm, The Berkus Group Architects; E.A. Platt & Co., Inc.; The Childs/Dreyfus Group, a well-known interior design firm; general contractor Nash Phillips/Copus, Inc.; Pod, Inc.; Scotko Design Group, Inc.; and Professional Builder magazine. Dryvit® System, Inc., of West Warwick, R.I., was one of 26 companies with advanced housing design and production technology who were invited to participate in this ongoing cooperative research and development effort aimed at exploring new directions in housing.

This innovative demonstration home was displayed to approximately 50,000 builders at the NAHB Show in the Dallas Convention Center, Jan. 17 through 20, 1986.

Designed to be land-and-labor efficient, NEST ‘86 dramatically expands the livability of narrow-lot housing forms such as zero-lot-line detached
“At 37 feet wide, it could be built on a 42 foot wide lot and still incorporate a dramatic indoor-outdoor relationship through the orientation of major living spaces to the deck.”

homes, duplexes and townhouses. “This 2396-square-foot, three-bedroom, two-bath home allows maximum utilization of the site while at the same time having an interesting elevation from every side,” says architect Barry A. Berkus, AIA, designer of NEST ‘86. “At 37 feet wide, it could be built on a 42-foot-wide lot and still incorporate a dramatic indoor-outdoor relationship through the orientation of major living spaces to the deck. Clerestories, greenhouses and the glass facing the deck bring an enormous amount of light into the home.”

NEST ‘86 was designed to meet the needs of two prominent and growing segments of the American housing market: young families trying to max-
imize the livability of their home on a limited housing budget, and empty nesters who want to move down from large, hard-to-maintain detached homes.

**Surprisingly Simple Construction . . .**

Construction of NEST '86 is uniquely simple. The entire system is centered around a standard wet-core module containing kitchen, bath, service and an energy pod. A myriad of floor-plan variations are possible from studio units to more typical two- and three-bedroom homes.

An expert team applied Dryvit Outsulation in a “Natural White” Sandblast® Finish to create the unusual curved walls that make the Berkus design unique to this type of housing. They used Dryvit Insulation Board—one of the four components of the Outsulation System—in a one-and-a-half-inch thickness to help achieve the walls’ total R-19 insulation value.

Says Barry A. Berkus, AIA, president of The Berkus Group: “Exterior insulation was an ideal material for this prototype modular home because it lent itself to the curved forms and textured surfaces I wanted to create for NEST ‘86. Dryvit allowed us to achieve a dynamic design, while simultaneously offering the reliability and quality control of a proven product.”

NEST ‘86 was put together rapidly on a construction site in Austin, Tex., and then transported in modules to the exhibition site in Dallas. Last year’s NEST was constructed in a modular housing plant in Waupaca, Wisc., and then transported by truck to the Houston Astrodome. This year’s NEST is almost a third larger than NEST ‘85.

For more information about the NEST concept, see the March 1985 issue of *Construction Dimensions.*