

## HEAT SEEKING CAMERA

### Vietnam war weapon now aids in insulation

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Tea plants in Bramalea. One major project identified heat loss areas in the relatively new Royal Bank tower in downtown Toronto, using a camera fitted with zoom lenses.

A number of private homes in Halton Hills and elsewhere have also been the subject of Fishburn scans. The scan itself, along with a subsequent report identifying

problem areas and recommending solutions, costs between \$80 and \$100 for the average home and is most applicable to wood frame structures.

Mr. Fishburn reported that the scan takes about an hour or two to complete and is conducted both inside and outside the house by a technician who points the remote thermographic camera at possible heat loss areas while watching the resulting image on a portable monitor. Colder areas of the house show up on the monitor as dark patches.

Late fall and winter, when indoor and outdoor temperatures are more widely separated, is considered the best time to conduct such test scans, Mr. Fishburn said.

About half of the company's business, however, comes from architects and engineers seeking assistance in designing better and more heat efficient structures. Apparently, the construction industry is rapidly becoming aware of its possible future liability in the event that serious structural defects are discovered now that the use of thermography is being advocated as part of government-monitored building codes.

While prospective homebuyers are inevitably delighted with the results of thermographic scans on houses they are considering, the Fishburn company is at the same time making new enemies among builders who are being accused of poor workmanship. On the other hand, more and more housing companies are hiring thermographic scanners to test entire subdivisions for possible faults.

Fishburn Thermography Group Ltd. is one facet of a roofing and sandblasting business that has grown during the past 30 years out of the old Stanley C. Fishburn and Sons construction firm that began in Norval. Doug Fishburn is now solely in charge of the widely-based operation his late father founded.

As Canada's leading roofing consultant, the Fishburn company about three years ago began examining methods of testing buildings for heat loss and related problems without dismantling the structures. Infrared scanning proved to be the most feasible method.

Next week, the company will reach something of a new pinnacle when Doug Fishburn addresses an international conference on the technology of infrared scanning in St. Louis, Missouri.

At the conference, the myriad uses of thermography will be a major topic of discussion as technicians, scientists and civic leaders from around the world study the application of thermography in space exploration, environmental work, rescue operations, firefighting and

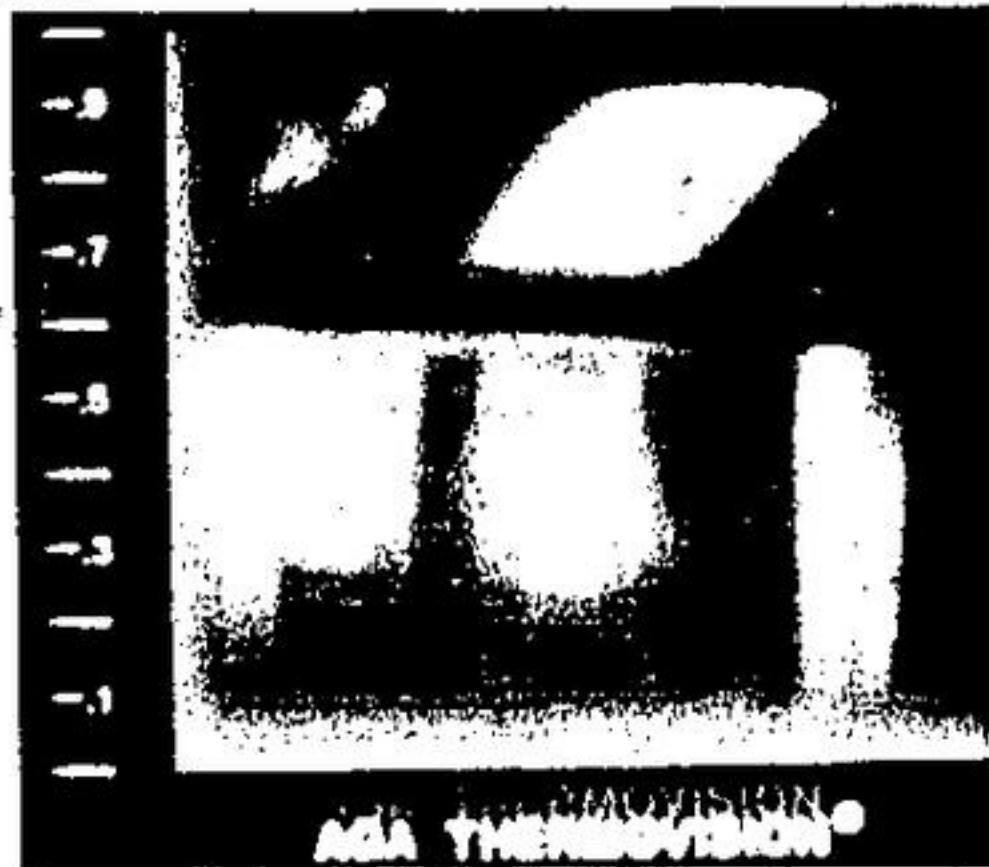
countless industrial and home uses.

Mr. Fishburn pointed out that any reservation being displayed about thermography is perhaps a natural reaction to a new and widely misunderstood technology. As everyone from smart home owners to federal in-

vestigators are finding out, however, thermography is probably one of the more useful innovations to be introduced in this century. Its potential, less than a decade after U.S. marines employed infrared scanners to flush out Viet Cong soldiers still appears to be infinite.



Dave Carter of Halton Hills, one of five technicians employed by the Fishburn Thermography Group of Hornby, displays one of the \$50,000 camera and monitor units the company uses to identify areas of structural heat loss.



Cut away portion of the roof of an experimental structure shows up as light patch, indicating heat retention.



A Fishburn company technician checks special camera equipment before conducting thermographic scan of Royal Bank Tower in downtown Toronto.

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