

Sunspaces provide a spot of summer the year round

Homeowners across Canada are adding pleasant, versatile areas to their indoor living space by attaching sunspaces that enable them to enjoy the benefits of summer weather the year round.

Three special purpose sunspaces are in common use today: the solar collection space, the greenhouse, and the more popular sunroom.

Solar collection space

Used principally as a source of heat during cold weather, solar collection spaces are designed to gather energy from the sun during the day and transfer it to the parent building by fans and ducts.

Dedicated solar collection spaces have no auxiliary heating and are insulated from the parent building. During the winter, temperatures can vary widely between day and night. Temperatures varied from -28°C to 60°C in one solar collection space in Ontario. As a result, this sunspace would be comfortable for limited times each day and plants could not survive the freezing winter nights. Despite its cold evening temperatures, however, a solar collection space can contribute to reduced energy bills by acting as a buffer between the parent building and the outside world.

Greenhouses: summer bounty in winter

Greenhouses are designed to provide optimum conditions for growing plants over an extended

season. Auxiliary heating is required to maintain temperatures when insufficient solar energy is available, for example, on overcast days. As well, humidity and condensation must be carefully controlled to avoid moisture problems.

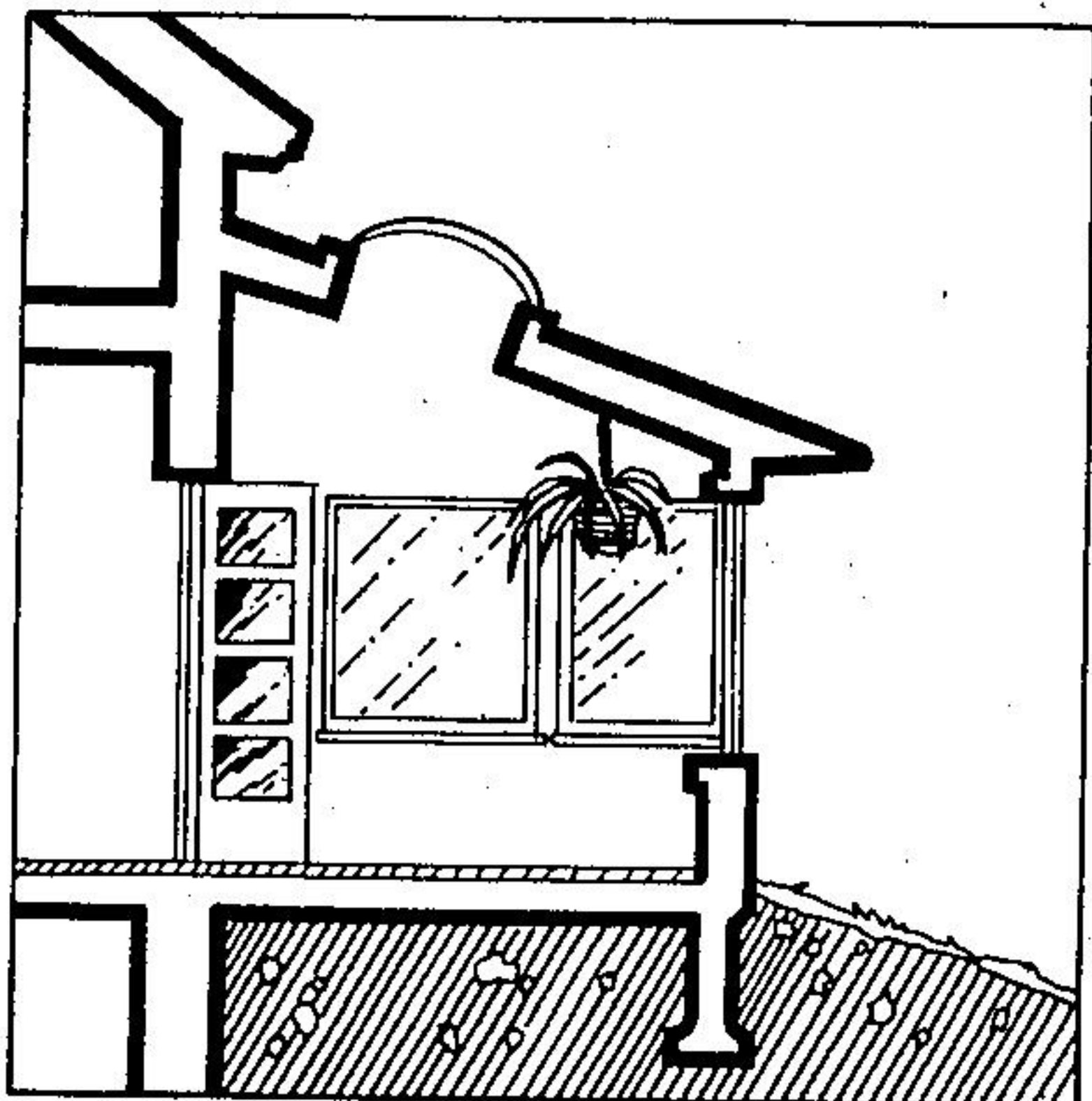
Greenhouses are *not* dedicated solar collection spaces and often consume more auxiliary energy than they collect from the sun. As a result, they can be a net energy liability. However, the benefits of having a dedicated area for growing plants and vegetables can outweigh the energy costs.

Sunrooms: living space

Sunrooms are designed to be lived in the year round, especially during the winter. On sunny days, this design can provide some heat to the parent building but at night or on heavily overcast days auxiliary heating is required to maintain comfortable temperatures.

Like all attached sunspaces, sunrooms should be oriented within 30 degrees of south for optimum performance. They should have an opaque roof with an overhang to reduce overheating in the summer and heat loss in the winter. Skylights can be added to allow light into the back of the sunroom.

These sunspaces typically have a large south wall of vertical, double-glazed glass and opaque, well insulated east and west walls. As well, sunroom floors and wall surfaces should be made of heavy energy-absorbing materials such as tile, brick or masonry.



Mixing of sunspaces

Today, many homeowners are building additions that encompass different aspects of the three sunspace options. When considering such a project, take care not to compromise the purpose and efficiency of the design. Generally, these 'mixed' sunspaces should not be viewed primarily as a source of heat, but as expanded living areas in which to enjoy the sun or to grow plants.

Suppliers offer everything from custom-designed sunrooms to do-it-yourself kits. Homeowners can also build one of these additions using common building materials.

However, no matter what building technique is used, a few basic concepts should be kept in mind.

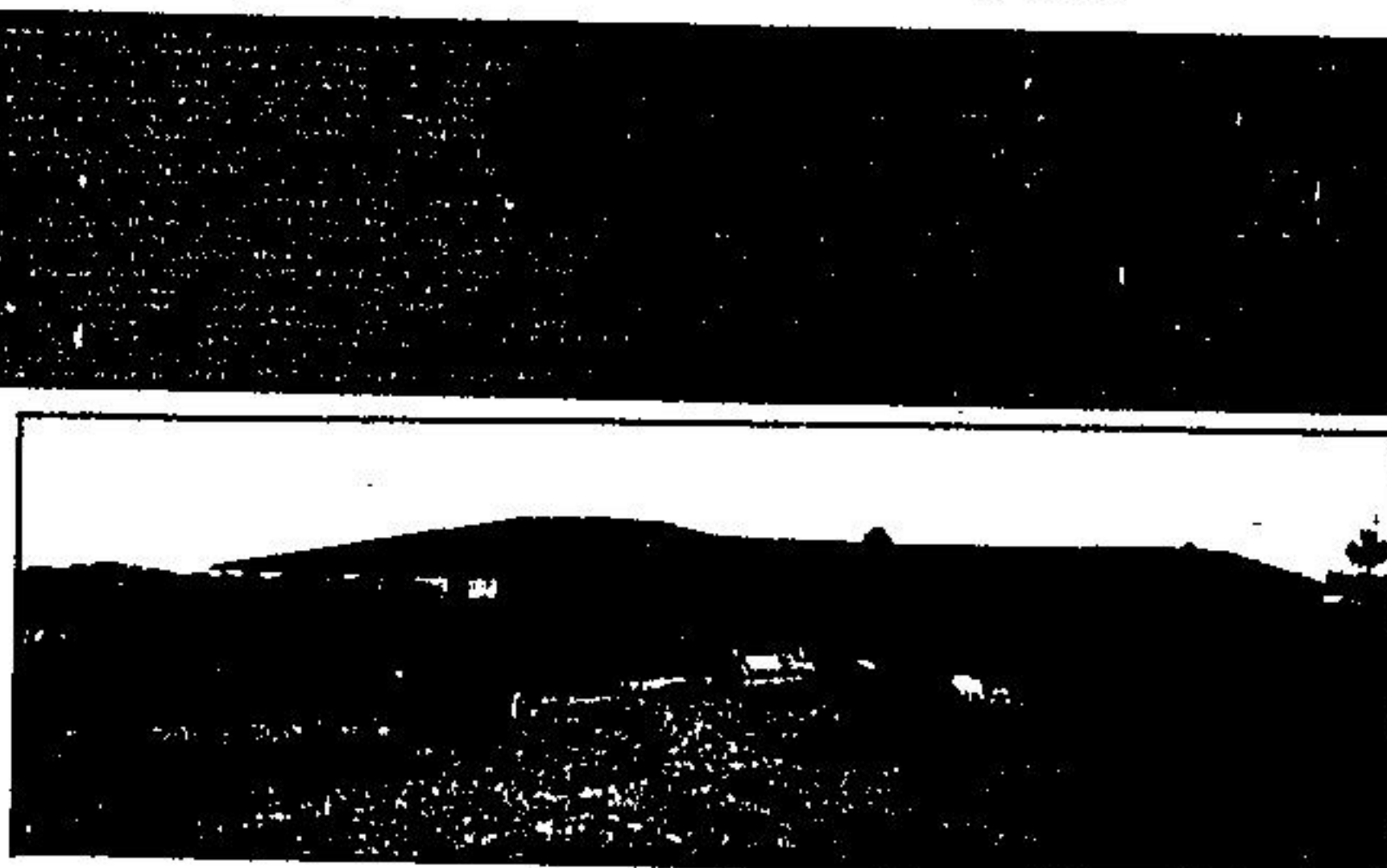
Before beginning construction, check with local authorities for building regulations and

permits.

You should also plan carefully before beginning work. Sunspaces need a south-facing location free from shade during the winter when the sun is low on the horizon. As well, the south-facing wall should have vertical, double- or triple-glazed windows (triple glazing is more expensive but offers added comfort). End walls should be well insulated and have minimal window area and the overall construction should be airtight.

Windows should open at the floor and ceiling levels and at the two end walls to improve cross ventilation and reduce overheating in the summer. The sunspace's roof should be well insulated and feature an overhang on the south edge to shade the glass during hot weather.

Flooring materials can range from tiles on a concrete slab to interlocking stones



5000 SQ. FT. CUSTOM HOME

5 bedrooms, formal dining room, den, living room, large kitchen, family room, sauna, 5 washrooms, 3 car garage, over 100 ft. of decking (20 ft. wide), 6 walkouts, skylights, on 3/4 acres with a panoramic view. \$425,000.

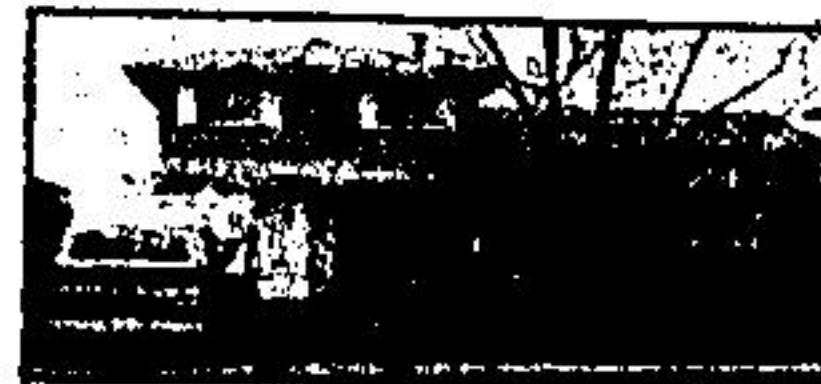


CLASSIC

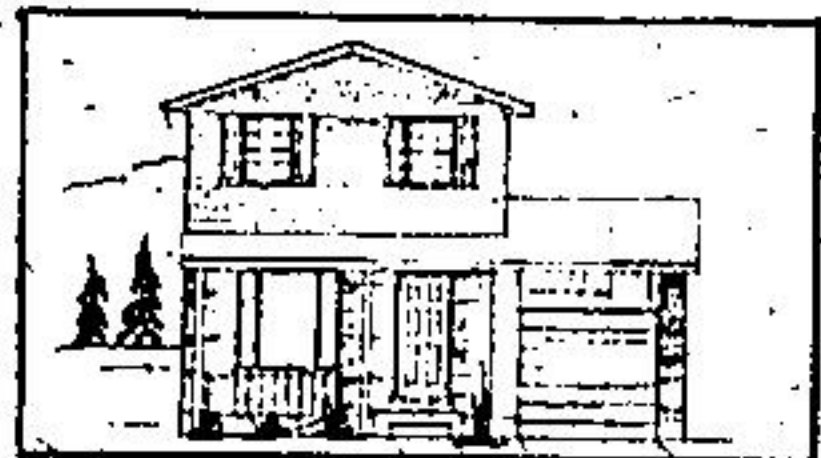
Charming 2 1/2 storey brick home featuring a cosy den, large living room with fireplace and coving, separate dining room, Hollywood style kitchen, 3 bedrooms, large room with washroom on 3rd level. Full basement with new gas furnace, updated wiring, covered walkout over the den, large fenced lot with 90 foot frontage, area of large older homes. \$188,900.

NEW LISTING

1 1/2 storey, 3 bedroom home in quiet area. Large 50 x 150 lot. Only \$99,500.



Lovely 3 bedroom sidesplit with new kitchen, built-in dishwasher and many extras. Large lot backing onto farm. Walkout from family room, fireplace, extra washroom. Only \$189,900. For more information call Larry Greaves or Gordon Dawe.



NEW HOME TO BE BUILT
\$139,900



Bill McKeown-Sales Rep.
873-2437
457-9788



THIS CERTIFICATE

Entitles You To A

PROFESSIONAL HOME EVALUATION

At No Cost Or Obligation

CALL BILL MCKEOWN OR ANDY KING
FOR PROMPT, PROFESSIONAL AND FRIENDLY SERVICE

RE/STAR MARLATT REALTY GROUP INC.

NETWORK OF THE STARS ★ MEMBER REALTOR

(Not intended to solicit homes already listed for sale)



Andy King-Sales Rep.
873-1058
457-9788