

# Windows leak money

Everyone wants to be a good neighbor, but using your energy dollars to heat the neighborhood may be taking community good will a bit far.

Yet every day, homeowners throw money out the window—out old, drafty windows that allow heat to escape in the winter and cold air to penetrate the house.

If you dread the thought of another drafty winter at home, it's time to consider thermally efficient replacement windows. And you can take some comfort in knowing that you're not alone in this undertaking: American homeowners have made the installation of new windows the number one remodeling project in the country.

### Energy costs on the rise

If you need to justify a window replacement project, look no further than energy cost predictions. The experts are warning that the 1990s will be a decade of rising fuel costs, due to limited production capacity and growing worldwide demand. Oil prices are forecasted to increase some 40 to 50 percent by 1995!

Energy losses in the home can occur at just about any opening, but especially through windows. And, in the summer the opposite occurs: Windows are the locations where most heat enters your house.

### Minimizing heat loss

Unfortunately, short of boarding up your windows, there's no way to completely stop energy loss from infiltration and conduction. But there is a way to minimize it.

Today's most popular replacement windows are available in wood, aluminum and vinyl. While each type of frame material has its advantages, consumers are finding that quality vinyl windows have the most benefits and the fewest drawbacks, which explains why vinyl window sales have soared over the past five years.

Although wood is an excellent insulator, without constant upkeep it can absorb moisture, leading to warping, twisting or sagging. Once this occurs, air is allowed to infiltrate through the resulting gaps, lessening the window's thermal efficiency. And wood requires expensive and time-consuming painting every few years.

Standard aluminum windows will not warp, shrink or rot. But their relatively thin walls can contribute to poor thermal efficiency. They feel cold to the touch in winter and may also allow condensation to form, leading to corrosion and pitting.

Because vinyl won't shrink or warp, air infiltration and the resulting lost energy are significantly reduced. And because vinyl resists condensation, homeowners don't have to worry about water damage or the pitting, peeling, rotting or corrosion that destroys the beauty and efficiency of wood or aluminum windows.

And, don't forget, the unsightly appearance of old, damaged windows detracts from the value of a home when it comes time to sell. With vinyl windows, you'll never have to paint again, and a tilt-in feature allows you to clean the glass panes from the inside.

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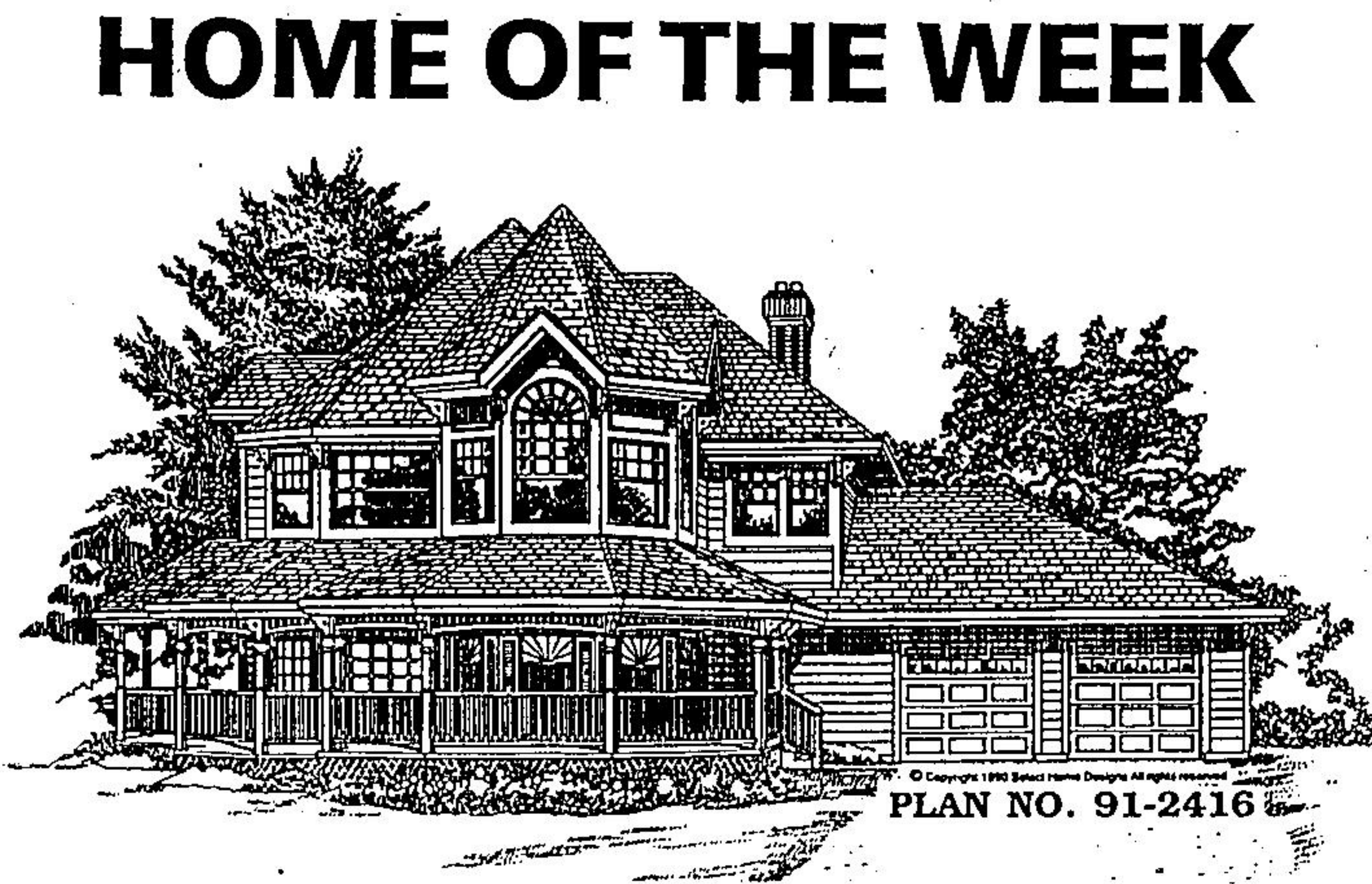
  
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## HOME OF THE WEEK

### ELEGANT VICTORIAN FAMILY HOME

Graceful covered verandah wraps this charming four-bedroom Victorian design. A vaulted foyer welcomes guests and introduces an octagonal staircase that winds to a railed gallery above. The gallery views the foyer below and the staircase's bay window. Off the foyer is the living room, which includes a tray ceiling and arched entry. The country kitchen offers a spacious walk-in pantry, centre cooking island and breakfast bay. The nearby family room is open to the kitchen and allows the cook to keep an eye on family room activities. Double french doors from the dining and breakfast rooms open onto the verandah.

Upstairs, the master suite includes a sunlit sitting area and ensuite with private deck, walk-in closet, whirlpool spa, twin vanity and shower. The three additional bedrooms share a main bathroom with double vanity and separate soaking tub.

The finished floor area of this family home is 2,459 square feet. Plans offer a choice of foundations, including a full basement or crawl space.

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