



Photograph: © Richard Barnes This prototype residence in Syracuse, New York, is called "R-House." The design was a competition-winner as part of an initiative to revitalize the blighted Syracuse neighborhood of Westside. R-House presents an affordable, innovative paradigm:

minimal- to- net-zero energy consumption embodied in architecture that is meant to nurture the spirit and engage the community as much as it is meant to perform in terms of cost and sustainable design.

R-House is a significant opportunity to demonstrate the successful application of innovative building strategies in a cold climate. The residence was designed to meet the German Passivhaus ultra-low energy standard, utilizing an extremely well-insulated exterior envelope, an efficient recirculating heating and ventilation system, and high performance windows that optimize solar gain.

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