



R-House

Syracuse, NY

DESIGN TEAM:

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STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

Guy Nordenson and Associates

ENVIRONMENTAL/MEP ENGINEER:

Right Environments

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

R-House is a residence in Syracuse, NY designed in collaboration by Della Valle Bernheimer and Architecture Research Office. The home's design was a winner of Syracuse University's "From the Ground Up" competition, held in conjunction with the Syracuse Center of Excellence and Home Headquarters as part of their initiative to revitalize the Near Westside neighborhood of Syracuse. R-House presents an affordable, innovative paradigm for 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 sustainability. The design utilizes an extremely well insulated exterior, airtight construction, an efficient heating system, controlled ventilation and windows that optimize solar gain. R-House is a significant opportunity to demonstrate the successful application of innovative, proven building strategies in a cold climate.

Wrapped within its iconic exterior are expansive and luminous spaces that require only the equivalent energy of a hair dryer for heating. Carefully detailed materials such as concrete, and wood imbue warmth and integrity. The efficient plan can be tailored to meet the needs of different families and is adaptable as these needs change over time. The durability of the design and superior energy efficiency, made affordable due to the simplicity of form and modesty of materials, make R-House a vital tool for building a resilient community.





The interior is airy and bright. A two-story tall space on the south side of the house, lit by large windows that open to a view of the rear yard, is bounded by the stairwell and the Master bedroom on the second floor.



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View of second bedroom: The design can grow from a 1,100 GSF, two bedroom house to a 1,500 GSF, three or four bedroom house simply by extending the second floor over the living space. This provides economic stability as family units change over time. The design's intrinsic flexibility makes R-House attractive to a range of individual owners and facilitates its widespread implementation.

The roof and walls are sheathed with corrugated aluminum. The silver color, muted reflectivity and fine texture of this cladding contribute to a sense of vibrancy that counters the gray winter months.



View from rear yard: The design transforms a typical gabled roof into a simply folded surface that recalls the appearance and scale of neighboring houses. Windows and skylights open the interior to views and are optimized to receive south light.