

HOMES

E1
BUYING, SELLING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

EDITOR: KELLY TAYLOR 697-7017 KELLY.TAYLOR@freepress.mb.ca | SHOW HOME MAP F8 | LISTINGS E10-13 | NEW HOMES F9

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Pocket homes, at 154 Kate Street, left, are designed to be attractive, affordable single-person dwellings as dignified alternatives to seedy rooming houses. Above: 1 Flora Place, a collection of tidy one-storey townhouses. The projects recently won awards from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. for their innovative designs.

Awards in the house

Manitoba projects recognized by CMHC Housing Awards

By Todd Lewys

It appears innovation in creating affordable housing is alive and well in Manitoba. Evidence of that came in the form of four Manitoba-made housing projects taking home top honours at the recent 2008 CMHC Housing Awards: Flora Place in Winnipeg, Pocket Housing/Suites, also in Winnipeg, Penfeld Place in Steinbach and Billy Halcrow Subdivision in Cross Lake.

An impressive feat, considering a total of 16 awards were handed out.

"It's not only a great honour for us, but for Manitoba," said Laurie Socha, general manager of Sam Management Inc., who along with the MMM Group (formerly ND Lea), Cohlmeier Architects — with additional support from the CMHC, Caisse Populaire, City of Winnipeg, Winnipeg Housing & Homelessness Initiative, J & J Penner and the Spence and Centennial Neighbourhood Association — made Pocket Suites at 156 Kate St. a reality. "It was a real group effort that resulted in providing affordable housing that promoted the dignity of individual residents."

Socha added the pocket suites concept was conceived by the MMM Group's Paul McNeil in an effort to find an alternative to rooming houses, where housing conditions are often substandard, and occupants must share limited space.

Continued

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