APPENDIX D

PIPES-WITHIN-A-PIPE HEAT EXCHANGER USED IN PROVIDENT HOUSE

S.G. Angus Hooper & Angus Associates Ltd. Consulting Engineers Mr. Angus explained that heat recovery was desirable in Provident House for two reasons:

- a) the house was expected to be very tight so a mechanical ventilation system was incorporated and
- b) the cost of the solar system was so high that anything which would reduce its size would be worthwhile.

As nothing small enough was available commercially, his firm designed a heat exchanger that could be economically fabricated as a "one-off". It consists of three 3" galvanized steel ducts within an 8" galvanized steel duct. The 3" pipes carry the intake air and are supported, within the larger pipe, on sheet steel webs which also serve to create turbulent flow. The ducts can be assembled in any desired length. 33 ft. was used in Provident House and this gives a theoretical effectiveness of 60%. The unit was installed with a slight slope to allow condensation to drain out one end. The cost, not installed, was \$250 at the end of 1976. Of this, \$51 was for materials. The design has the disadvantage that it has to be taken completely apart to clean and thus is subject to decreasing effectiveness due to fouling of the heat exchanger surfaces. It is operated by the occupants. One switch turns on both the intake and exhaust fans which are quite inexpensive (\$75 total) due to the small flows and pressures involved. The intake flow is designed to be 75% of the exhaust flow in order to draw a negative pressure in the house.

In fact it has not been possible to monitor the Provident House installation since the ventilation system is seldom used. This is because the fans are located in a place where their noise is annoying. Also, the building has not proved to be as tight as originally expected due to one major air leak which has yet to be sealed so it has not been necessary to use the system to control moisture

Mr. Sulman observed that the cost of the heat exchanger 'itself was seldom very important compared to the final installed cost of the system and he suggested that if future houses were to include such systems they should be designed to minimize the cost by reducing the amount of ductwork.





