

## 1520 W Thompson Street

### Philadelphia: Excellent Passive Solar Energy Potential

Robert Thomas, Campbell Thomas and Company, Architects Planners, designed the 23 Thompson Street Solar Homes to minimize energy costs for lower income first-time homeowners. He astutely observed how Philadelphia is laid out on a north-south axis and has few buildings taller than three stories outside of Center City, which means many sites have good southern exposure and are prime candidates for Passive Solar Design.



Design of the Thompson Street Solar Homes began with cost effective strategies for creating energy efficient homes. Wall systems featured R-25 rated insulation and other energy conservation techniques applied during construction to yield a 50 percent higher insulation value than the standard approaches.



Cross-Section of the Typical Thompson Street Passive Solar Home "Heat-collecting Trombe walls with high south-facing windows known as "clerestories" soak up the sun and keep heating costs low."

Source: Philadelphia Energy Report, Volume 4, No. 1, Citizens' Coalition for Energy Efficiency, (1982), Spring/Summer 1987.

### About unique solar home at 1520 W Thompson Street, Philadelphia, PA

The houses were designed by the famous firm Campbell Thomas & Co Architects, 1504 South Street, Philadelphia PA 19146-1636

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### In 1991 the Solar Homes Won Awards of Merit for Urban Design Excellence

The Bethesda Broad Street Project located on Broad and Brown Streets, Parkside Historic Preservation Corporation's Brantwood Apartments at 4150 Parkside Avenue and the National Temple Solar Houses of the 1500 block of Thompson Street, were the winners of three out of the six awards given for "Model of Affordable Housing in Philadelphia Region" by the Foundation for Architecture. The Foundation is a non profit institution established by the AIA's Philadelphia Chapter to develop and enrich public awareness of Philadelphia's built environment, thus improving the quality of Philadelphia's architectural future.

[www.campbellthomas.com/key\\_awards.htm](http://www.campbellthomas.com/key_awards.htm)

### Solar Townhouses—[http://www.campbellthomas.com/architecture/complete\\_list.htm](http://www.campbellthomas.com/architecture/complete_list.htm)

Location: 1500-44 W Thompson St, Philadelphia, PA

Client: National Temple Non-Profit Housing Corporation

Contact: Roy Diamond, 215-732-3600

Completion Date: 1984

Notes: *Built at a cost of traditional moderate income housing, these passive solar houses incorporate trombe walls and other low tech design ideas to reduce utility costs to one fourth of similarly sized conventional housing.*

[http://www.campbellthomas.com/architecture/complete\\_list.htm](http://www.campbellthomas.com/architecture/complete_list.htm)