

Is it easy to get green?

A look at access to sustainable design in
Philadelphia

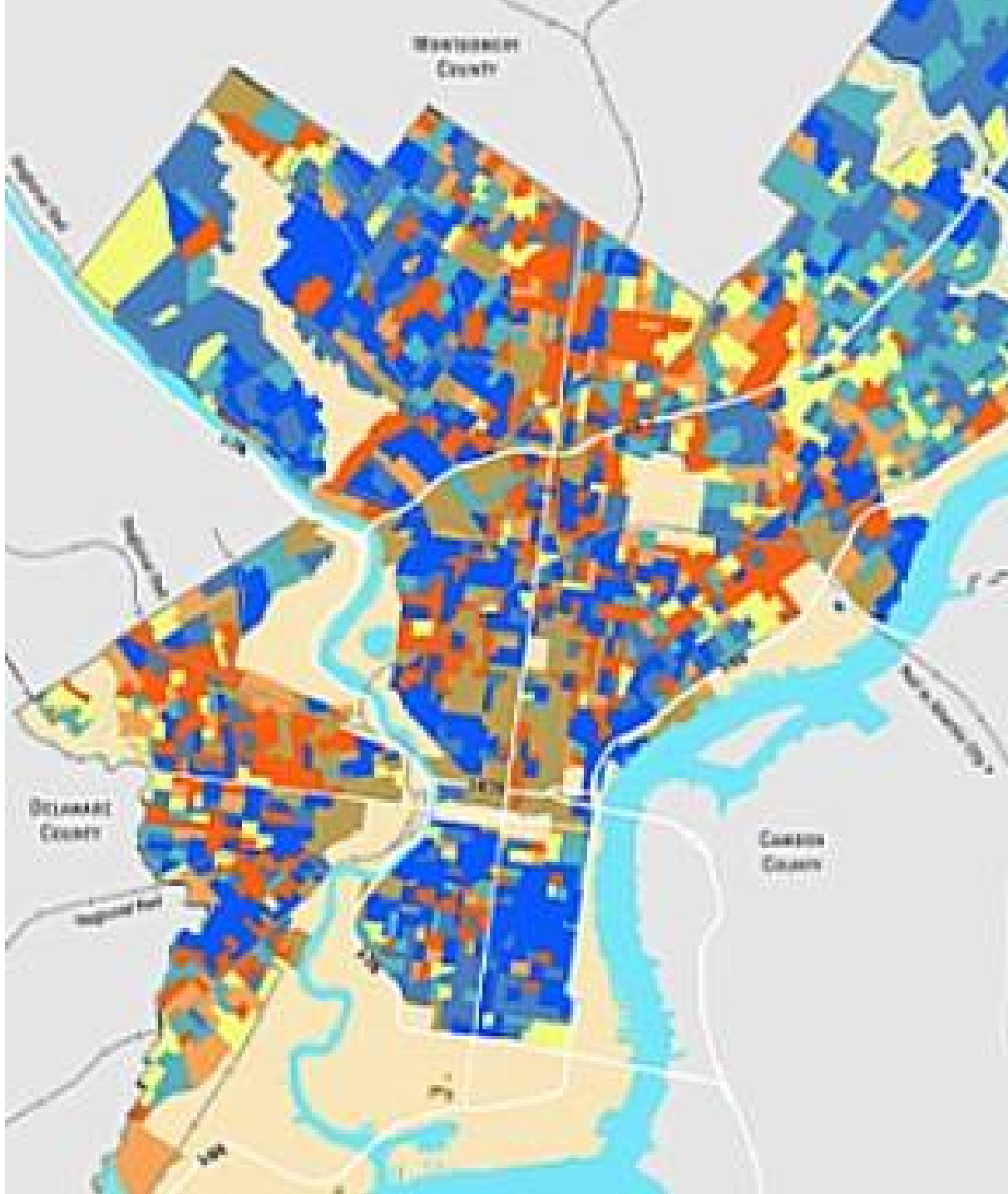
Antonio Larson

Ben Harris

A new homeowner's search for sustainability

- Prior heating bills= \$500, \$600, \$800/ mo.
- Interest in passive solar design
- Inability to get bank loans for real estate addition without established value
- Few leads and sources for experienced help.

Rising property values 2000-2003



Legend:

Appreciated

■ By 25% or more

■ By 10-25%

■ By 3-9%

Depreciated

■ By 0-2.9%

■ By 3-9.9%

■ By 10% or more

■ > 4 transactions

■ Non-residential

• www.phila.gov/nti

Campbell-Thomas row houses

1500 Thompson St. in Philadelphia (1984)

Passive Solar, Trombe walls, Clerestory windows



2/3 utility savings
over conventional
models



Since 2001, Re:Vision Architecture has specialized in environmentally sensitive planning and design that provides a contextual response to the natural and built environments. As experts in the field of sustainable design, we work as architects, consultants and advocates.



Focus:

Schools/ children

Mission based

Non-profit/ low-income

The “Ten Dollar House”



The rugged garden



The old tower
&
an example of
what all the
brickwork
looked like.



Tackling one level at a time





Bicycle depot



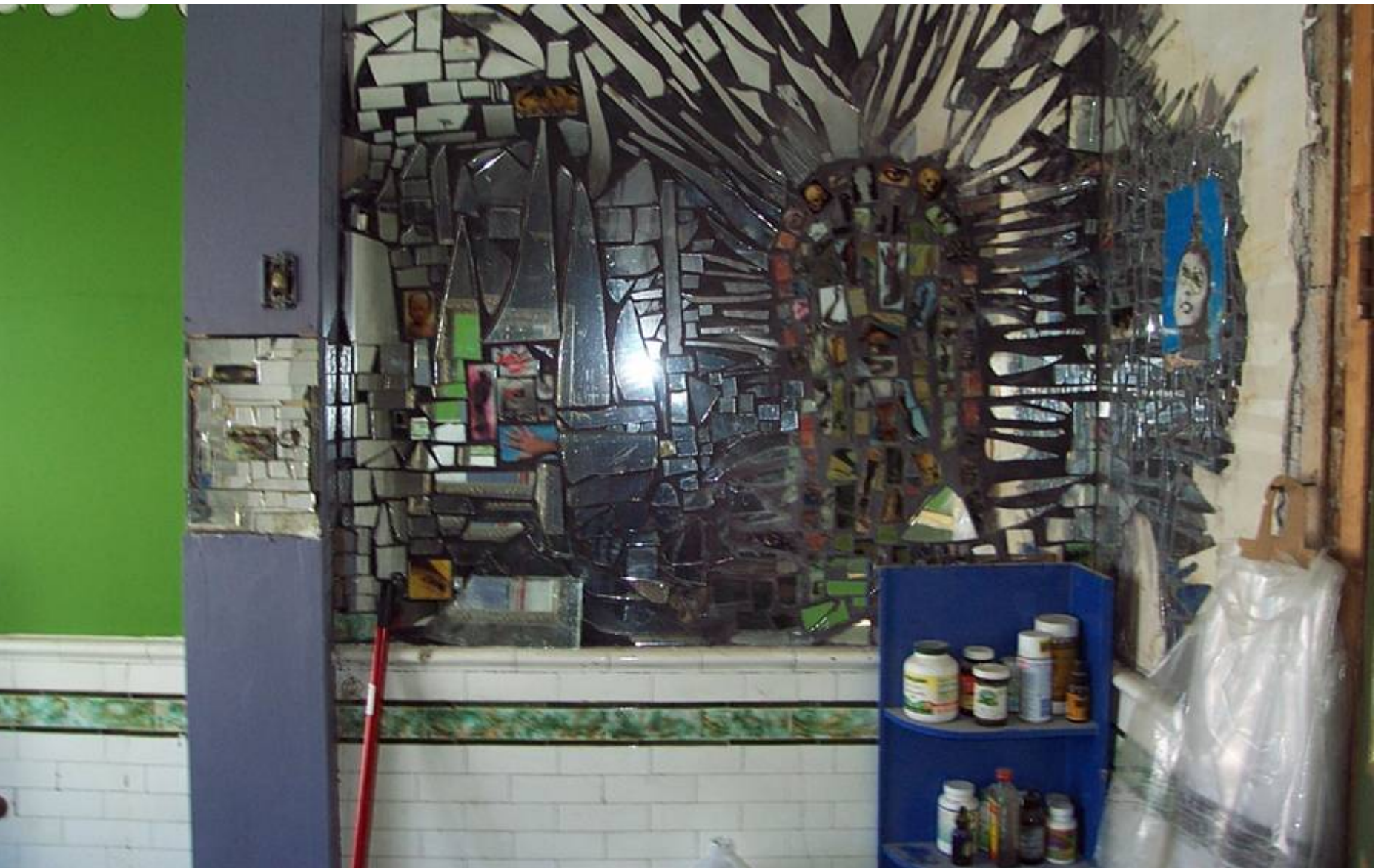
Shared Space (and heat!)



Artistic landing
&
community
bulletin space



Bathroom art





Insulating floor to floor

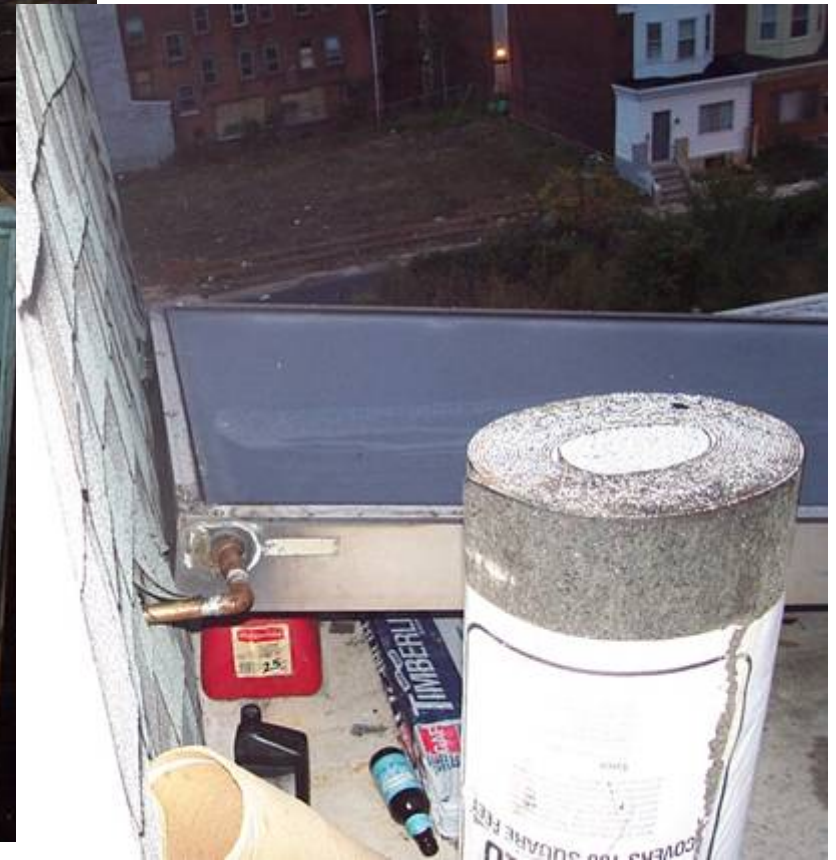




Sky lights and insulation

Water heating

thermo-siphoning tank



thermo-siphoning tank



Solar water heater



Low budget photo voltaics



The battery room: DC to AC



Solar internet!

(they do have a phone line)



Low Energy Appliances:

The Energy Star Logo

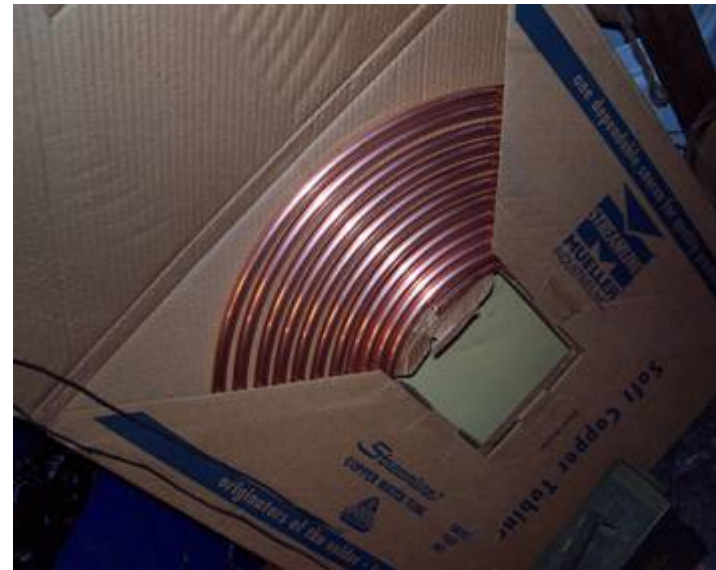


Wood stoves



Going Further

heat exchange coil to be wrapped around furnace



References

1. Portnoy, Jenna: "Frost Bit", Citypaper: Oct. 20-27, 2005. p.20-25
2. Beatley, Timothy, Green Urbanism: Learning from European Cities. Island Press, Washington D.C., 2000.

Selected Web sites:

3. www.eere.energy.gov
U.S. Department of Energy: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy site with links to interesting case studies. Specifically:
<http://131.251.21.249/local/passive/PassiveSolarRowhouses.htm>
(Detailing the Thompson Street, Campbell-Thomas Projects in Philadelphia)
4. www.phila.gov/nti
Philadelphia Neighborhood Transformation Initiative: Housing maps and statistics and city plans for development and revitalization.
5. www.revisionarch.com
Soon to be updated homepage for Re:Vision Architects.

Interviews:

6. Ben Harris- Philadelphia homeowner investigating sustainable design options.
7. Scott Kelly- partner at Re:Vision architecture firm in Philadelphia.
8. Dave Onion- founding member of the "Ten Dollar House" in Philadelphia.