



News Release

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For more information, contact:

Elva Légère Clements
Alvaré Associates
610-520-6140, Ext. 203
elva@alvare.com

Message of Iowa State Solar Decathlon Team:

'Anyone Can Create a Sustainable Home'

Team Goes with Home Slicker® Plus Typar to Achieve Best Home Design



Ames, IA – Iowa State University's [Solar Decathlon](#) team has decided that using readily available technologies in designing and building one of the most energy-efficient and sustainable homes possible is their way of saying, "Anyone can do this." The team determined that [Home Slicker® Plus Typar](#), a combined rainscreen system component and housewrap manufactured by Benjamin Obdyke, was the best choice for prolonging the life of the concept home's cedar siding.

While some products being used on Iowa's State's "Interlock House" are new, the Home Slicker Plus Typar has proven to alleviate moisture problems in thousands of homes by providing a space behind exterior cladding to allow moisture to drain and to provide proper ventilation. "Our Interlock House has focused on technologies that are available to the public, highlighting the possibility for the average homeowner to become more energy aware," said Peter Mauro, a spokesman for the project.

The [U.S. Department of Energy's prestigious Solar Decathlon](#) is an international collegiate competition to design, build, and operate highly energy-efficient, completely solar-powered houses, "the best in home design," the website says. In the competition, each collegiate team assigns its own "signature" to their home. In the case of Iowa State's 800-square-foot Interlock House, the goal was to construct a dwelling that could be erected in a backyard, driveway, or empty lot as an alternative to sprawl. The idea is to enable retirees,

BENJAMIN OBDYKE INCORPORATED

400 BABYLON ROAD, SUITE A · HORSHAM, PA 19044 · TOLL FREE: (877) 647-8368 · FAX: (215) 672-5204

SALES: (800) 523-5261 · FAX: (215) 672-3731

WWW.BENJAMINOBDYKE.COM

empty nesters, college students, and extended family members to stay in neighborhoods which otherwise might be unaffordable to them. The house generates enough energy to meet its own needs and is even capable of directing the surplus into the existing power grid, making it effectively a net-producer of energy. The compactly designed house also heeds the call of Iowa State's President, Gregory L. Geoffrey, to reduce each individual's carbon footprint and become a model of energy efficiency.

According to Iowa State's Mauro, the team felt that an air space should be incorporated between the exterior Eastern White Cedar cladding and the home's sheathing for drainage and ventilation. "The Interlock team became aware of Home Slicker Plus Typar while researching alternative wall assembly methods. The product was recommended to them by a faculty advisor," he said. "Because the team was so focused on minimizing the footprint of the house in every possible way, even the thin nature of the Home Slicker Plus Typar's three-dimensional nylon matrix bonded to Typar – a residential and commercial housewrap – made a difference. Additionally, the Home Slicker will not be degraded by the cedar siding used on the exterior of the Interlock House."

For more information on the progress of Iowa State's Solar Decathlon team's Interlock House, go to www.solard.iastate.edu. The team will dismantle and ship the home for re-assembly in Washington, DC in October.

For more information on Home Slicker or other Benjamin Obdyke roof and wall products, contact a local Benjamin Obdyke dealer, visit www.benjaminobdyke.com, or call Benjamin Obdyke Customer Service at 800-346-7655.

About Benjamin Obdyke Incorporated

Since 1868, Benjamin Obdyke has been helping architects, builders, and contractors in the United States and Canada Build Better™ by developing and adding new advances to its product line. Benjamin Obdyke develops, sources, markets, and sells proprietary roof and wall products that improve the building envelope and the performance of other building materials for the residential new construction, repair, and remodel markets. Innovations from Benjamin Obdyke, such as the first roofing ridge vent on a roll, the first wood roofing underlayment, and the first rolled product to provide drainage and air flow in rainscreen wall assemblies, have helped shape today's building practices. Headquartered in Horsham, PA, USA, Benjamin Obdyke partners with a network of distributors, dealers, buying groups, and

cooperatives to reach building professionals in the United States and Canada. Typar® is a registered trademark of Fiberweb, Inc.

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Photo Caption: Determined to use building products that are readily available on their concept home, Iowa State's Solar Decathlon team chose Benjamin Obdyke Incorporated's Home Slicker® Plus Typar combined rainscreen/housewrap product to help create the most sustainable home possible as their entry in the international collegiate design-build competition.