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Breaking New Ground Concept homes launched



A groundbreaking on Wednesday marked what many hope will signal a new trend in housing. The model is the PATH Concept Home.

The vision for the PATH concept home is that it will be affordable for anyone to purchase, maintain and renovate as a family's needs change.

HUD Field Office Director Stan Quy says, "The first PATH home to be constructed in the U.S. under the PATH initiative will be constructed here in Omaha, Nebraska."

PATH stands for Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing. The private and public sector have come together with a vision to make homes more affordable, efficient, flexible and sustainable.

Omaha Mayor Mike Fahey says, "It's wonderful to have the opportunity to have affordable housing. It's what every growing city needs."

Quy says, "The bottom line is not much changed in the single family housing construction in the 1900s. All of that is about to radically change."

For instance, the home will have a state-of-the-art roof. It will also have removable cabinets and flexible floor plans.

Concept home builder Fernando Pages says, "A family living in this house can easily reconfigure their first floor. If they want a dining room, they can have it. If they want an open space, they can remove the wall."

The house will have wireless electric switches.

Pages says, "These are switches you can just pull off the wall and relocate them somewhere else."

Millard Lumber is a partner in this project.

Fernado Pages, of Brighton Construction, says the company will make the home efficient to build.

The builder tested these ideas in other projects and will be incorporating them into the 12 homes to be built around 28th and Izard.

When the home is complete it will be on display for the public. It will eventually be sold for approximately \$145,000.

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