Coastal EnviroHome

Despite technological advances in every other area, the housing industry has been slow to embrace improvements in manufacturing and energy efficiency. In order to address the most pressing needs in the 21st century, homebuilders and owners must evolve away from traditional building methods and towards more energy-efficient, healthier, and sustainable practices. The EnviroHome system provides an opportunity to look at building technologies and innovation in a new light. Due to its energy efficiency, prefabrication, and its self-contained structure, the EnviroHome wall system alleviates many of the variables that constrain the home building industry. For that reason, our proposal capitalizes on these advantages by taking a look at the home in its entirety. Located in Miami Beach, Florida, our 60' x 120' site sits less than ¼ mile from the Atlantic Ocean and less than ½ a mile from Biscayne Bay. Miami Beach sits at the intersection of prime real estate and severe threat from climate change. This makes the area a perfect location for the adoption of the EnviroHome system. Our proposal is a comprehensive, whole-house investigation into creating a residence that is energy-efficient, viable during water infiltration, and aesthetically interesting. By incorporating triple-pane glazing, an energy recovery ventilator (ERV) and a thermally-activated stair chimney, the Coastal EnviroHome will not only resist the impact of climate change, it will actively combat it by more than doubling the energy efficiency of a comparable home in the area. In addition to its small energy usage, the home will have superior performance during a water infiltration event such as flooding due to its use of modern and composite materials throughout. The home avoids all use of cellulose products, relying on PVC, stone wool, an the EnviroHome system in lieu of traditional wood and paper products. The Coastal EnviroHome will serve as a model for the future of homebuilding - especially in areas that are particularly vulnerable to climate change. While this proposal was tailored specifically for the warm-weather climate of Miami Beach, this model can be slightly modified and replicated along coastlines anywhere around the world.









