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Curio House - Sandwich

The Valle Group recently finished working with Housing Assistance Corporation on the Curio House, a home designed and built as a collaborative effort between the Boston Architectural College (BAC) and Tufts University. BAC and Tufts University joined forces as Team Boston to compete in the 2009 Solar Decathlon. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Renewable Energy Laboratories (NREL) sponsor this biannual competition in which twenty teams showcase fully operational, energy-efficient, marketable, solar-powered homes to the public on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

The Curio House traveled from the Tufts campus in Medford, MA to Washington DC for the competition. Housing Assistance then acquired the home from Tufts and The Valle Group was tasked with coordinating the mobilization and reassembly of the modular building in its permanent home in Sandwich, MA. The house is powered by a 7.2kw photovoltaic solar panel system that converts sunlight directly into electricity. Five solar thermal collectors use sunlight to heat water for Curio House's sinks, shower, appliances, and radiant floor heating system. The Curio House is also equipped with a ductless heat pump, a system that operates similar to a standard air conditioner with a few modifications for improved efficiency.

The Curio House will serve as a model for energy efficient affordable homes in a large community being developed by HAC