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Energy and Food Self-Sufficiency Gallery Exhibition

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MORRIS (2/20/76) -- A design project aimed at helping Minnesota communities approach energy and food self-sufficiency by the year 2000 is the subject of the next gallery exhibit at the University of Minnesota, Morris.

The exhibit, including mounted photo montages, architectural drawings and models, slides and a videotape, is the project of an energy design class in the School of Architecture at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

The show will open at 4 p.m. Tuesday (2/24) and continue through March 15 in the Humanities Fine Arts Center at UMM. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. There is no admission charge.

The project was done by 17 senior architecture students under the direction of Prof. Dennis Holloway. They spent a year re-designing the city of Winona into an energy-conserving community.

Winona was chosen for the study because of its location on the Mississippi River, its population of 25,000 and its typical food distribution system. The students worked with the Winona Planning Commission and Chamber of Commerce, as well as holding several public meetings.

They hope their project will stimulate discussion by other communities of adaptations of the Winona plan and encourage study of the changes in value systems that would be necessary in an energy-conscious community. Their recommendations emphasize what the individual can do, but also carry implications of how communities can effect change.

The students constructed a physical model of Winona and prepared a master plan for the city, redesigning areas to provide a more in-depth proposal. Areas investigated included projected changes in community organization and life-style as well as in technology.

Among the proposals in the study are adaptation of the spaces between houses into greenhouses, play areas and solar collectors; movable markets that come to the people rather than outlying shopping centers that force people to travel; possible canal construction in low-lying areas of the city with good connections to the Mississippi; a houseboat area for year-around residence; and a gradual conversion of unnecessary and duplicative vehicular streets into walkways and bikeways.

The architectural model, which cost \$2,000 to construct, was financed by private donations and grants-in-aid from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the University's Agricultural Extension Service, Media Production Fund and School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture.