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New Heat Pumps Provide Total Climate Control with Flexible Design

The 2013-2014 winter season was marked by unusual weather patterns, with extreme cold snaps and record-breaking cold temperatures.

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Featured Video



The Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating M-Series system in this uniquely-designed home in St. George, Utah was easily installed without having to modify the structure.



Interview with an Architect: Tom Bassett-Dilley

Tom Bassett-Dilley's architecture firm, in Oak Park, Ill., focuses on residential projects, offering what his website calls "enduring architectural solutions . . . [Read More ▶](#)



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Chicago residents Corinna and Rodrigo Lema dreamed of finding a house that would embody the best practices of the green building movement. [Read More ▶](#)



Two Top Products Sweep up End-of-Year Awards

Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating wrapped up 2013 with industry awards recognizing the CITY MULTI® S-Series and R2-Series products. [Read More ▶](#)



New Cooling and Heating Systems Maximize Space and Design Options

Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating has introduced the MXZ-5B heat pump system, the newest offering in the extensive line of ductless cooling . . . [Read More ▶](#)



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Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating traveled to New York to join more than 1,800 manufacturers exhibiting at this year's AHR Expo—the world's largest HVACR show. [Read More ▶](#)



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New Heat Pumps Provide Total Climate Control with Flexible Design

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Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating H2i® Family

The 2013-2014 winter season was marked by unusual weather patterns, with extreme cold snaps and record-breaking cold temperatures. Ongoing research from the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) suggests that the Earth's changing weather patterns will continue in the future.

Incorporating HVAC into the design process is already challenging, and for architects who design homes or commercial buildings, accounting for uncertain weather extremes further complicates the process. Mechanical systems, like heating and cooling, can be clunky and impede an architect's design. They can also make a big impact on projects that are trying to meet efficiency standards or where the client has set a priority on reducing energy use. With HVAC being the largest single contributor to a building's energy use, selecting an efficient HVAC system is extremely important to meeting these goals. Additionally, since architects (not the specifying engineer) are typically the main building owner contact on most jobs, achieving customer satisfaction in the form of an HVAC system that is reliable, easy to operate and provides precise climate control is also important.

On top of these challenges, some HVAC systems just don't perform at low temperatures, requiring a supplemental heat source to be installed in the case of extreme cold. These can require additional mechanical space and can be inefficient and rely on fossil fuels to function, foiling any plans for a sustainable or energy efficient design.

Fortunately, there is an option that is energy efficient, easy to incorporate into design and provides occupant comfort, all while operating at full heating capacities

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at low ambient conditions without the need for a supplemental heat source in most cases. [Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating](#), the pioneer of hyper-heating technology in the U.S. market today, has redefined and revolutionized heat pumps, creating the ultimate comfort technology for architects.

With the addition of the new Hyper-Heating INVERTER (H2i®) R2-Series, which will be available in Q2 of 2014, Mitsubishi Electric now offers a complete family of cooling and heating products with cold climate performance capabilities for almost any application, giving architects the ideal HVAC solution for any job, anywhere in the country.

When Other Systems Can't, H2i Can

No other manufacturer has achieved the same level of heating capacity at low ambient conditions from a single-source product. This unmatched heating performance makes the H2i systems the ideal HVAC solution, especially where low winter temperatures average below 10 degrees.



Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating H2i® M-Series

The residential H2i M-Series (MSZ-FH) and H2i P-Series (PUZ-HA) systems can operate at up to 100 percent of the rated heating capacity at 5-degree F ambient conditions, providing optimal heating performance for any residential or light commercial applications. The H2i Y-Series (PUHY-HP) and H2i R2-Series (PURY-HP) expand total cold climate control to building projects of any size, anywhere. The system can provide up to 100 percent of rating heating capacity at zero-degree F outdoor ambient temperatures—the highest performance heating capacity at the lowest temperature in the field.

Superior Heating Performance Doesn't Come at a Cost

Now, there is no need to compromise between design and performance in cold climate applications. The H2i systems contain all the benefits customers have come to expect from Mitsubishi Electric products.

- **Flexible Design:** The low profile, compact systems are ideal for tight spaces, giving architects the flexibility to fit the specific needs of any home or building.
- **Small Footprint:** Ductwork is inefficient, costly and soon to be a thing of the past. H2i systems are designed to occupy less space. The small footprint of the outdoor unit is lighter weight than other types of systems and provides architects with an opportunity to use the roof as a reclaimed space.
- **Energy Efficiency:** By employing the INVERTER-driven compressor and zoning technologies, the H2i systems offer the same superior performance at high-efficiency available in its other VRF and ductless products. In fact, at 30.5 SEER, the H2i M-Series system is the most energy-efficient ductless zoning system in the U.S. market today. Additionally, the technology may contribute to a building receiving LEED points in areas of Energy and Atmosphere and Indoor Air Quality.

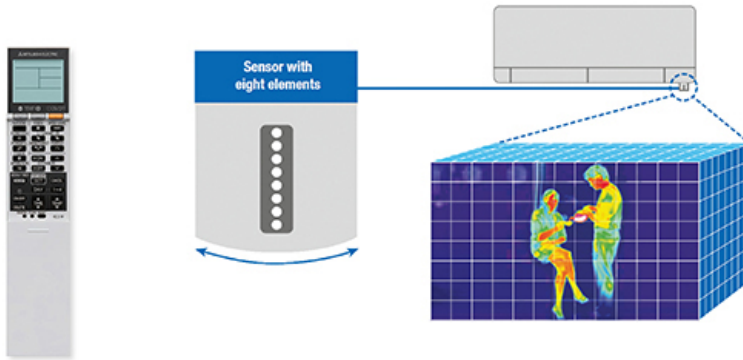


Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating
H2i® P-Series

- Customer Comfort:** The INVERTER-driven heat pump systems provide effective energy use while maintaining the ideal comfort level, even on the coldest days of the year. Taking precision to a whole new level is the i-See Sensor™ 3D for residential wall units in the H2i M-Series. An industry exclusive, the infrared human sensing technology measures the location of humans through heat imaging to deliver the perfect amount of conditioned air to the areas in use. Commercial VRF zoning applications will benefit from complete zone control. Users can monitor and control their VRF zoning system from anywhere in the world with the meZO Controller App. M & P Series systems can also be controlled from your smart devices using the MHK1 controller and a RedLink™ Internet Gateway to provide monitoring and controlling from anywhere having Internet access.



Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating
H2i® R2-Series



The i-See Sensor™ 3D in the H2i® M-Series wall-mounted unit measures the location of humans through heat imaging to deliver the perfect amount of conditioned air to those areas in use.

Keeping the Design Possibilities Open

The arduous task of striking the perfect balance between practicality and design is over. Available from 9 kBtu/h single-zone ductless systems to 16-ton VRF zoning systems, architects have the option to combine and network multiple systems together based on the unique design needs of the space. The unique two-pipe configuration—something that no other VRF zoning manufacturer offers—allows for more efficient design, while the compact and small footprint of the system components allow for convenient application to both historic retrofits and new building constructions.

Adding to the convenience of designing with these systems, outdoor units in the commercial R2-series can connect to up to 48 indoor units, and the heat pump is compatible with a variety of indoor ducted and ductless unit styles, including wall-mounted, floor-standing, ceiling-suspended, ceiling-recessed cassette and vertical/horizontal ducted. For expanded application possibilities, the outdoor unit operates quietly at 52 dB(A) in cooling and 53 dB(A) in heating, meaning the unit can be placed virtually anywhere without causing inconvenience or annoyance.

The most notable feature of the H2i systems for architects is the reliability. The H2i heat pumps take the worry out of comfort control with the automatic restart and automatic heat/cool changeover features. Architects can trust that in cold climate conditions when heating performance really counts, the H2i systems will deliver. Even in regions where heat pumps haven't worked in the past like Sturgeon Bay, Wis. and Buffalo, N.Y., H2i systems have succeeded, proving they can deliver year-round comfort to any one, in any climate, anywhere.

As the pioneer of ductless and VRF zoning technology in the U.S. market, Mitsubishi Electric has the longest record of product quality and support. No other manufacturer offers the exceptional quality, training and support capabilities and extensive distribution network. In cold climate conditions when heating performance really counts, users can trust that Mitsubishi Electric products will perform as indicated. As the patent holder of the flash-injection technology that pioneered Hyper-Heating capabilities, the company has been offering reliable Hyper-Heating technology at unparalleled quality since 2007.



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Interview with an Architect: Tom Bassett-Dilley

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Tom Bassett-Dilley's [architecture firm](#), in Oak Park, Ill., focuses on residential projects, offering what his [website](#) calls "enduring architectural solutions, from Passive House to preservation." Indeed, Bassett-Dilley recently designed the [first house](#) in the Chicago area to earn certification as a Passive House. That means it meets the stringent energy efficiency standards of the [Passive House Institute](#) for both design and construction. The architect quotes sustainable design pioneer [Edward Mazria](#) as saying that what we do with buildings in the next 20 years will determine whether climate change is a disaster or manageable. "The technology [necessary] is out there," Bassett-Dilley says. "We're paving the way for how to design mindfully for all climate zones, from hot and humid to Arctic."



Tom Bassett-Dilley, owner of Tom Bassett-Dilley Architect, Ltd., Oak Park, Ill.

Photo: Eric Hausman Photography

What kinds of projects do you have underway?

Mostly new Passive House projects. When I went to take my [Passive House consultant training](#) in 2010, this is what I wanted to do: focus on 1,500- to 2,000-square-foot homes. We have about five of those going on. The other big part is remodeling older homes. There's a lot of existing housing stock that is in dire need of upgrading from a performance standpoint. The Passive House practice is good for air quality and natural light. [Clients] say, "Why would you build any other way?" You don't pay a premium for it: You can pay the utility bills or you can put it into design and construction costs.

How did you become interested in passive design?

I became interested in architecture in 1979. Edward Mazria had just written [The Passive Solar Energy Book](#). There was lots of pioneering work going on by the early solar guys—there was super insulation in Canada and the U.S., there was research at the [University of Illinois](#), thus paving the way for the Passive House. People here in the U.S. were on the verge of getting it to become a codified standard. Europeans came here to learn. But once the energy crisis passed, that all got swept aside. The other book that inspired me was [A Testament](#) by Frank Lloyd Wright. It was the artistry that struck me. His buildings look like they're in love with the site. Design was a way of linking your building to nature and living a better life as a result. All these things were stewing in my mind. By 2006, everyone was thinking about sustainability again.

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I learned about Passive House design from a German colleague. I realized that here was a powerful tool I could use to figure out early in the design process what would happen if, say, I made a building longer and skinnier. I could just plug that into the [Passive design modeling] software. It's design and performance coming together. In the U.S., 50 percent of energy use is for heating alone. [With Passive design,] we can use just a tenth instead. This is where Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating [mini-splits](#) come in when we need heating but also cooling and dehumidification. In the [Passive House in River Forest](#), we used two mini ducts, the smallest ones Mitsubishi Electric makes, at 9,000 BTU. We put in more expensive windows and insulation and a mechanical system that is less expensive, has fewer moving parts and is easy to maintain. It provides nice, fresh air quality—the inside air is like outside air.



Tom Bassett-Dilley Architect, Ltd., designed this ultra-efficient Passive House in River Forest, Ill., using two Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating mini-splits for heating, cooling and dehumidification.

Photo: Eric Hausman Photography

On your website, you say, “I believe that sustainability must also reach that primal, intangible level of aesthetic quality whose hallmark is harmony with the natural world.” How do you determine the type of HVAC system to spec, given the frameworks of Passive design and sustainable residential design?

It depends on the size of the building. If it's a new house, the first question is what do we need for comfort? Here, we need cooling and dehumidification in addition to heating. We get all that with the mini-splits. For the [9,000-BTU Mitsubishi mini-split](#), the SEER rating is 26. That's twice as good as what code required a couple of years ago.

Was there a learning curve in using a Mitsubishi Electric ductless system as part of a design?

Not a lot. It is still a mechanical product. Where to put the units is a question. We have put them outside. Now, we are also putting them inside with a soffit and a panel to access.

Please describe some challenges that you have faced that Mitsubishi Electric products helped solve.

A place where they're really handy is when we do a small addition, such as a master suite upstairs on an older house with a boiler somewhere and radiators. It would be expensive to extend boiler lines to the new space. That's a perfect place to pop in a mini-split. You have a little bit of extra heating and cooling and dehumidification, and you have a comfortable sleeping zone. You can duct some air out of there and mix it downstairs to provide cooling there. The inverter technology will modulate down to a partial load.

Have you gotten any feedback from clients on the Mitsubishi Electric systems that you've installed?

I've heard nothing but good things. [The owners of the first certified Passive House in the Chicago area] moved in during the coldest week of the year. With the two little mini-splits, there was no problem—it was great. People have been really happy with the additions where we used mini-splits. The system is very quiet.



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A VRF Zoning System Saves a Sick Office Tower and Helps Earn LEED Silver

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With a current population of 55,197, Towson, Md., is the seat of Baltimore County and the second-most populated unincorporated county seat in the U.S. From 2002 to 2012, this 15-story office tower in the heart of downtown Towson stood vacant — declared a “sick building” due to ventilation issues.



In 2012, [Caves Valley Partners](#) (CVP), a Towson real estate investment firm, acquired the building and started planning an extreme makeover reusing the existing steel and concrete structure with a state-of-the-art modernization program to bring it up to code.

For the mechanical system design and installation, CVP turned to the LEED® accredited engineers of the Baltimore design/build firm [Mechanical Engineering & Construction Corporation](#) (MEC2). For design support, MEC2 turned to a Columbia, Md., architectural firm, [Brasher Design](#), which specializes in adaptive reuse— putting new life into old structures. Ronald Brasher, AIA is president of Brasher Design.

“This was the most challenging renovation project in my 30-year career,” Brasher said. “Nothing was as it should have been; nothing was square. The glazing contractor called as he was installing the 12-story curtain wall system and informed us that the building was out of plumb horizontally and vertically with as much as 2 inches in some areas.”

Steve Wagner, project manager for MEC², said the scope of work included gutting the entire tower keeping only the structural steel, slabs and elevator core. When selecting a new HVAC system for the space, Wagner said that one of the team’s many challenges was the low deck height of the original design. Instead of the

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normal 10-foot-6-inch space between floors, the 12 floor slabs measured only 8-foot-6-inches to 9-feet between floors. This low ceiling height meant that an HVAC solution requiring significant ductwork was off the table.

Another factor to consider was selecting an HVAC system that would help the building earn LEED points. “From day one, we all worked with our sights set on achieving LEED certification,” Wagner said. “This meant selecting the best HVAC system for the tower that would deal with the difficult low decks and also help us succeed in meeting the critical environment and indoor air quality standards demanded by the U.S. Green Building Council.”

Wagner explained that the team ultimately selected a Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating [Variable Refrigerant Flow \(VRF\) zoning system](#), which helped the design team meet the many challenges posed by this building.

In addition, the efficiency upgrades for Towson City Center resulted in a \$421,999 rebate through [Baltimore Gas & Electric’s Smart Energy Savers Program®](#), which offers incentives to buildings that make sustainable building improvements.

“In many ways that has been the most satisfying [project of my career],” said Brasher “Because, as a team, we made [the project] work. We turned a long-standing eye-sore in the middle of town into a LEED Silver landmark of great value. The tower was immediately filled with tenants and the owner was rewarded with the largest rebate I’ve ever seen.”

To see the full version of the case study, [click here](#).



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The Best HVAC System for Tight Thermal Design

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Corinna and Rodrigo Lema built the first certified Passive House in the Chicago area with the help of a Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating split ductless system. Passive House standards require a 90 percent reduction in energy used for heating when compared to a conventional home.

Chicago residents Corinna and Rodrigo Lema dreamed of finding a house that would embody the best practices of the green building movement. They discovered an Oak Park, Ill., architect named [Tom Bassett-Dilley, AIA](#), a Certified Passive House Consultant whose core mission is the pursuit of lasting architectural solutions and sustainability.

Bassett-Dilley told the Lemas that [Passive House](#) design has the most airtight and highly insulated building envelope in the industry. Passive House standards require a 90 percent reduction in heating energy when compared to similar homes.

Bassett-Dilley explained that, due to the harsh climate of the Chicago region, some cooling and heating would be needed, even in a Passive home with an extremely tight thermal design. Faced with the challenge of providing the Lemas with an efficient system that offers adequate heating at low ambient temperatures, Bassett-Dilley offered a solution. "An engineer recently introduced me to a [ductless system](#) from Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating, Suwanee, Ga., which is the perfect fit for a Passive House," he said.

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The simplicity and efficiency of the Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating split ductless system is ideal for a Passive House: no need for a plumber, electrician or costly ductwork.

To build the house, Bassett-Dilley called on Passive House Institute U.S. Certified Builder Brandon Weiss, LEED AP whose firm, [Weiss Building & Development LLC](#), South Elgin, Ill., holds more green building certifications than any other builder in Illinois.

“This was my first Mitsubishi Electric split ductless installation,” Weiss said. “The technology is great – ideal for a Passive House! The first thing that struck me was that I had no need to call in the plumber and electrician to figure routing for traditional ductwork. Secondly, I admire the system’s simplicity and efficiency – so easy to install; less moving parts, less maintenance, less costly to operate. And, once we got the system up and running, it was so quiet no one could believe it was operating.”

To see the full version of the case study, [click here](#).



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Two Top Products Sweep up End-of-Year Awards

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Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating wrapped up 2013 with industry awards recognizing the CITY MULTI® [S-Series](#) and [R2-Series](#) products.

Architectural Products 2013 Product Innovation Awards. The Mitsubishi Electric CITY MULTI® S-Series won the [2013 Product Innovation Award](#) in the HVAC category from [Architectural Products](#) magazine. Judged by a panel of jurors representing the top experts in the design industry, products that offer exceptional attributes, qualities and functionality in design along with superior performance received the designation. The winning S-Series is ideal for light commercial and large residential applications, featuring a single-phase heat pump system with a capacity of up to five tons.



Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating S-Series

Consulting-Specifying Engineer 2013 Product of the Year Awards. The Mitsubishi Electric CITY MULTI® R2-Series won the [2013 Silver Product of the Year Award](#) in the HVAC/R category from [Consulting-Specifying Engineer](#) magazine.

Out of more than 100 entry submissions, the publication's readers voted on their picks for the best products of the year. The R2-Series, which features simultaneous cooling and heating operation, was chosen because of its complete zone control, flexibility and ease of installation capabilities. It also features quiet operation from 58 to 64 dBA and extended set point range, allowing for more design possibilities.



Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating R2-Series

This award is proof that architects are recognizing the value of incorporating VRF zoning technology into their designs. Look for more award updates in the next edition of the Mitsubishi Electric *Architect* newsletter.

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New Cooling and Heating Systems Maximize Space and Design Options

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Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating has introduced the [MXZ-5B multi-zone heat pump system](#), the newest offering in the extensive line of ductless cooling and heating systems. At 42,000 Btu/h (3.5 tons), few other systems on the market operate at this size and capacity. The MXZ-5B can cool or heat up to five zones, making it the ideal system when designing for large additions, whole floors or entire homes.



Mitsubishi Electric
Cooling & Heating MXZ-5B

This system is the latest addition to the [MXZ multi-zone series](#), which offers individual zone control to as many as eight indoor units from a single outdoor unit. The outdoor units can be used with a variety of indoor unit styles and capacities, lending themselves to easier, more flexible installations. This feature also allows architects to mix and match units to meet a home's unique cooling and heating needs without having to sacrifice design, space or aesthetics. The MXZ-5B features a five-port system, able to connect to up to five indoor units, and an 18.4 SEER efficiency rating.

Mitsubishi Electric has also expanded its [CITY MULTI® line of VRF Zoning Systems](#) with the addition of the Hyper-Heating INVERTER (H2i®) R2-Series VRF zoning heat pump.

Using an INVERTER-driven compressor and flash injection technology, the H2i R2-Series provides 100 percent of rated heating capacity at 0 degrees Fahrenheit, simultaneous cooling and heating at minus 4 degrees Fahrenheit and 85 percent of rated heating capacity at minus 13 degrees Fahrenheit. No other manufacturer has achieved this heating capability at low ambient conditions from a single-source product, giving users efficient heat pump operation throughout the year in extreme conditions without relying on fossil fuels.



Mitsubishi Electric
Cooling & Heating
H2i® R2-Series

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The H2i R2-Series offers efficient year-round operation, simple maintenance and lower upfront installed costs than conventional systems. The ability to meet extreme conditions in heating season without backup heat is ideal and especially beneficial for the architects who are designing for colder climate applications.

For more information on both products, visit www.mitsubishipro.com.



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AHR Expo

January 21-23, 2014
New York

Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating traveled to New York to join more than 1,800 manufacturers exhibiting at this year's [AHR Expo](#)—the world's largest HVACR show. To kick off the 3-day event, Mitsubishi Electric unveiled two additions to its revolutionary line of Hyper-Heating (H2i®) systems—the H2i M-Series, which features the highest SEER ratings on the market today, and the H2i R2-Series, which received an Honorable Mention in the Heating category of the 2014 AHR Expo [Innovation Awards](#) program.



Mark Kuntz, vice president, marketing & engineered solutions, Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating, stands in front of the new, groundbreaking line of Hyper-Heating systems that were showcased at the 2014 AHR Expo. The systems are ideal for architects' unique design needs.

Greenbuild International Conference and Expo

November 21-22, 2013
Philadelphia

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Mitsubishi Electric was on hand at [Greenbuild 2013](#), the world's largest conference and expo dedicated to green building for architects, engineers and builders. As an exhibitor, Mitsubishi Electric showcased its latest cutting-edge green products, including both residential ductless and commercial VRF zoning systems. The primary focus of the show was unveiling the newest version of the [USGBC](#) green building rating system, the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) program, [LEED v4](#), and educating attendees about the recent changes to this program.

U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon

October 3-13, 2013

Irvine, Calif.



The sixth biannual [U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon](#) brought together 20 university-led teams from around the world to compete for the most affordable, energy efficient and aesthetically pleasing solar-powered house. Five of the 20 teams incorporated Mitsubishi Electric systems into their designs. One of those teams, the [University of Nevada Las Vegas](#) (UNLV), won [second place overall](#). The team was also awarded first place in the [market appeal](#) contest and tied for first place in the [hot water](#) contest.

Mitsubishi Electric also participated in the first Solar Decathlon XPO – a renewable, efficient energy exposition hosted alongside the 2013 Solar Decathlon at the Orange County Great Park. The XPO was designed as an introduction to green living, providing visitors with information on energy efficiency in home design, transportation, consumer products, food and education.



University of Nevada Las Vegas Solar Decathlon home with a Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating ductless system.



Top Five Architecture Trends for 2014

Tranquility, mission control, traditional design, Passive Homes and flex rooms. Click [here](#) to learn more about these emerging home-design elements.

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