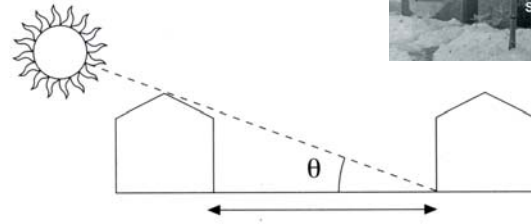


The Pennyland Passive Solar Houses

In 1979 a large number of houses on the Pennyland estate were built by Milton Keynes Development Corporation as a passive solar heating experiment in collaboration with the OU Energy Research Group. The main living rooms and glazing were concentrated on the south side; they were well insulated (by the standards of the day) and had high efficiency gas boilers.

Most houses faced south and were laid out so that the midwinter sun would not be obstructed by the roof line of the houses to the immediate south.



This has given an unusual estate layout with the gardens mostly on the south side of the houses:

Energy performance monitoring by the OU over several winters showed that the best insulated houses used only half the gas for low temperature heating as nearby 'normal' houses. Although the solar layout has been found difficult to implement widely, the insulation and boiler efficiency standards were adopted in the mid-1980s by Milton Keynes for all its new houses. These standards were only surpassed by national ones in about 2002.

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