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ILLUSTRATION: Ron Bull toronto Star Workers assemble the canuhome's solar panelwalls for display at the Green Living Show this weekend. The structure is inspired by a canoe. ;
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canuhome: Compact, all-Canadian

The tunnel-shaped structure with shiny solar panel walls looks like something from outer space.

But the mobile, sustainable, eco-friendly 79-square-metre canuhome could be the prototype for the next generation of compact homes.

It took architects, designers, engineers and students from the Institute Without Boundaries at George Brown College over a year to design the model on display at the Green Living Show this weekend.

"We have been studying how to make sustainable and universally designed housing, so this kind of model could work around the world," said Luigi Ferrara, director of the institute.

The canuhome is a distinctly Canadian idea, from its canoe-inspired structure to its attempt to reflect aboriginal wisdom through use of space. Even the materials are Canadian, from the maple wood planks to stoneware cutlery.

There are no plans to sell the canuhome in Canada soon, but Ferrara is adamant the project is more than just an academic exercise.

The canuhome will also be on display in Yorkdale Mall in June.