

# All in the family

MARTY HOPE  
CALGARY HERALD

## Dad and daughter team take on green project

It's not unusual for renovations to become more complicated than originally intended, especially in older homes.

After purchasing a bungalow in southwest Marda Loop in Calgary, Nicolle Pittman wanted to add a second floor.

But the engineering for the project was so complicated that she scrapped that plan.

Instead, a pair of technologically cutting-edge, eco-friendly townhouses will begin climbing out of the rubble of Pittman's demolished home next month.

"I just thought there had to be a better way of building," says the 28-year-old copywriter for Trigger Communications who, along with her dad, Peter, founded Coley Homes.

The duplex project is called Brama Bend and it

will be located at 2239 31st Avenue S.W.

"Brama Bend is a landmark project in energy and resource efficiency," says

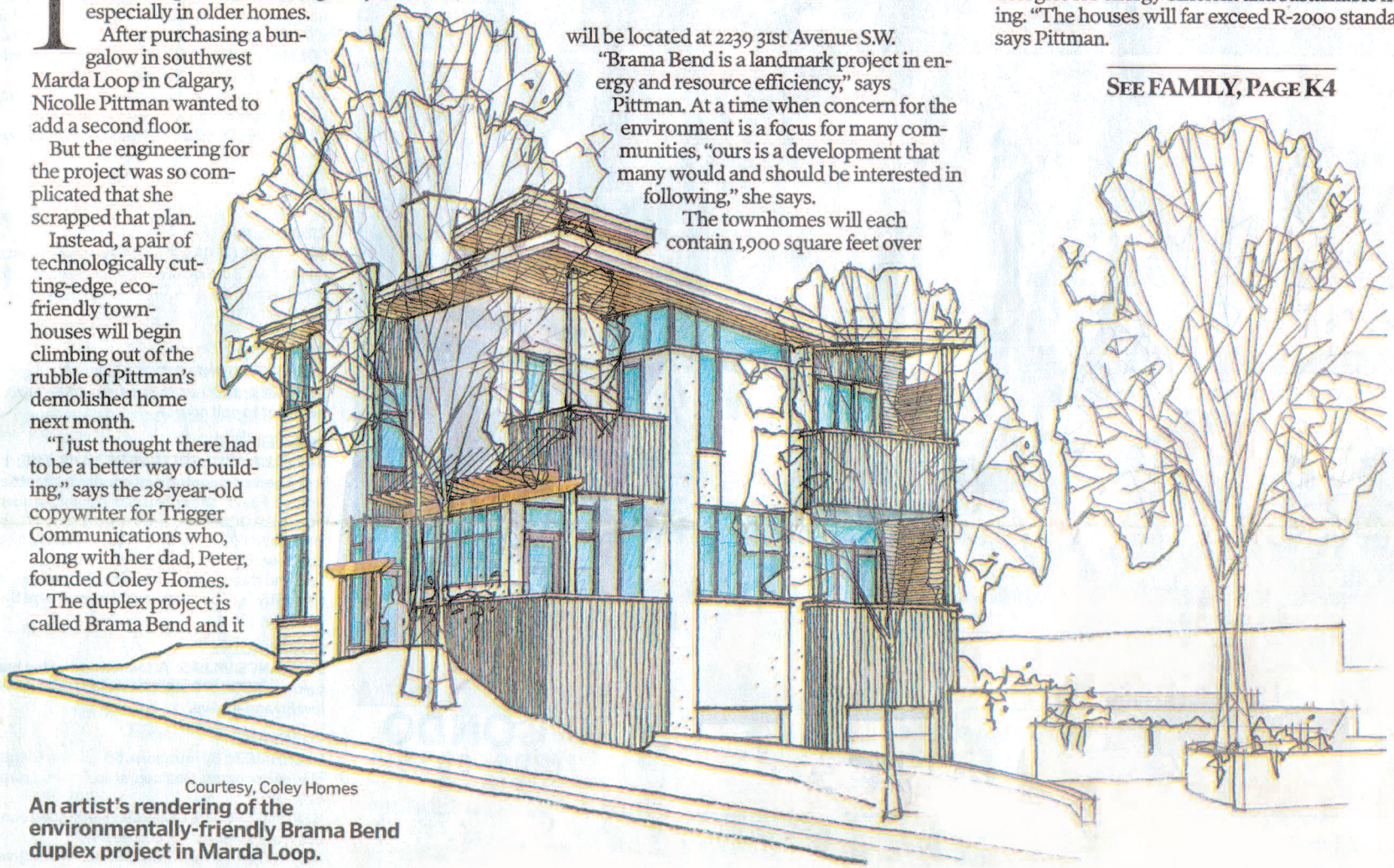
Pittman. At a time when concern for the environment is a focus for many communities, "ours is a development that many would and should be interested in following," she says.

The townhomes will each contain 1,900 square feet over

three levels. As licenced R-2000 builders, Pittman and her father plan to incorporate many elements of the federal program in the project.

The program offers a set of standards and technologies for energy efficient and sustainable housing. "The houses will far exceed R-2000 standards," says Pittman.

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Courtesy, Coley Homes  
An artist's rendering of the environmentally-friendly Brama Bend duplex project in Marda Loop.

FROM K1

## RISING: Geothermal system planned

There will be a geothermal system installed on the property with embedded radiant floor and water heating, along with a geothermal rooftop hot tub, high-efficiency windows, lightweight concrete floors and energy-efficient appliances.

"Our whole idea is to make them beautiful — and functional, as well," says Pittman.

From an ecological perspective, the townhouses will also use windmill-generated power provided through Enmax's Greenmax program.

The townhouses will also have a continuous fresh air ventilation and heat recovery system, water-conserving faucets, dual-flush toilets and permeable paving on driveways to reduce stormwater runoff.

Although the building permit isn't expected until sometime in August, Pittman has already planned for future eco-features like rooftop hot water solar collectors, photovoltaic panels and a rainwater collection system, as well as dedicated composting and recycling areas.

She will live in one of the units and will sell the other when it's completed next February or March.

### IN SHORT

**PROJECT:** Brama Bend, a pair of 1,900-square-foot townhouses.

**DEVELOPER:** Coley Homes.

**LOCATION:** Marda Loop in southwest Calgary.

**PARTICULARS:** This is an R-2000 demonstration home that includes energy-efficient appliances, geothermal technology, insulated concrete formwork and structural insulated panels.

**INFORMATION:** Progress of the homes can be followed by going to [www.coleyhomes.com](http://www.coleyhomes.com).

"The buyer won't likely be a raging environmentalist, but will be someone who doesn't want to continue spending so much on energy bills," says Pittman.

Her father, Peter Pittman, a jour-

neyman millwright who has spent seven years as a general contractor and 19 years in construction and trade management for the Alberta Building Trades Council, will act as project manager.

"I'm coming out of retirement to do this," he says.

"I think it's a hell of an idea. I just looked at my latest gas and power bill and, my God, they're never going to stop going up — and they're what are going to make people look at other ways of doing things."

Nicolle considers Brama Bend to be more than just a couple of homes.

She sees them as a training ground for builders, renovators, homebuyers, tradespeople and students who are interested in sustainable building, but are unsure where to begin.

As an R-2000 demonstration project, the townhomes will likely be available for tours by interested parties throughout the building process and beyond.

A website — [www.coleyhomes.com](http://www.coleyhomes.com) — will also provide periodic updates on the progress of the homes.