

Amabel Pocket Neighborhood



Inspired by prominent sustainability architect William McDonough's entreaty:

“How can we love all the children of all species for all time?”

Builder and developer Sue Cosentini has created Amabel Pocket Neighborhood, a community of 30 net-zero homes in Ithaca, NY.



Amabel Pocket Neighborhood will provide 30 single-family homes on a gorgeous piece of land close to downtown Ithaca, the beautiful Cayuga Lake, Buttermilk Falls State park, the Ithaca Farmers' Market, Greenstar grocery, shopping, restaurants, and many other destinations reachable by walking, bike, canoe, or kayak. The houses are arranged to allow private enjoyment of the site's exquisite natural beauty while simultaneously creating opportunities for interactions among residents and visitors. Growing and enjoying food, solar-energy production, and community-building practices are also key components of this cutting-edge neighborhood.

The Amabel project is a venture of New Earth Living (NEL) LLC, a real-estate development company founded by Susan Cosentini. New Earth Living previously built the highly successful Aurora Street Pocket Neighborhood in the City of Ithaca.



Please call or email to get all your questions answered:
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619 Five Mile Dr. Ithaca NY • www.newearthliving.net

The Mission of New Earth Living

New Earth Living creates vibrant neighborhoods that connect people to one another and our shared earth, providing spaces for trust, purpose, play, and ease. The Amabel Pocket Neighborhood is one of those places. Amabel addresses the need for low-carbon living, healthy and delicious food, energy and resource renewal, and meaningful social



North houses courtyard side looking west towards Five Mile Dr

connections. To this end, New Earth Living will build 30 single family homes on individual parcels to create a neighborhood that fulfills a need for privacy and tranquility along with supportive, enlivening relationships; conserves natural resources; reduces greenhouse gases; and produces food.



South houses courtyard side looking east towards the Inlet



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Neighborhood Features

- A beautiful park-like setting, one flat mile from downtown Ithaca
- An ideal location on the future Black Diamond pedestrian and bike trail, leading to four local NYS parks, Cayuga Lake, local grocery stores, downtown, the Ithaca Farmers' Market, Cass Park, and more
- The Cayuga Lake inlet, adjacent to the site, allowing canoe or kayak travel to many of the above-named locations
- Large, mature trees and an open meadow on the inlet and Coy Glen natural area
- Rapid-draining alluvial soil composition perfectly suited to residential development
- A classic old barn for garden, bike, and canoe storage



North houses Inlet Road side looking east towards the Inlet

- Homes carefully designed for quality of life, energy efficiency, and solar-power production
- Stained concrete exterior walls--a rich, substantial, masonry finish without maintenance headaches, designed to highlight the site's natural beauty
- Simple, clean interior finishes, with some customization by owners
- All the houses have a ground-floor master suite option
- Large, private yards and open areas for yard games, sunbathing, and other forms of play and connection
- Large, central courtyard for organic community gardens and edible landscaping
- Fire-circle enclosure and future pavilion for dining, gathering, and playing games
- Intra-neighborhood Web connection for communication, car and resource sharing, and more
- A thoughtful, engaging processes for governance, community building, and resiliency



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Life at Amabel: Community, Privacy, Sustainability

As defined by architect Ross Chapin, pocket neighborhoods are clustered groups of neighboring houses or apartments gathered around a shared open space--a courtyard, a pedestrian street, a series of joined backyards, or a reclaimed alley--that has a clear sense of territory and shared stewardship. The neighborhoods can be urban, suburban, or rural.

In these settings neighbors can easily know one another, empty nesters and single householders with far-flung families can find friendship or a helping hand, and children can interact with non-parental adults who offer support and guidance. With clearly defined boundaries from the street entrances to private front yards, the shared outdoor spaces at the neighborhoods' center are a key element. Residents take part in the care and oversight of this common space, thereby enhancing quality of life by ensuring safety and a sense of security.

A stranger walking into a common space is likely to be addressed with a friendly, "Can I help you?" At the same time, a six-year-old's mom is likely to feel at ease in allowing her daughter to explore the "bigger world" beyond the front door. In the daily flow of life, neighbors offer "hellos," acknowledgments, or stop for a chat, cup of coffee, or glass of wine on a front porch or bench by the garden.

Privacy is also a key ingredient of pocket neighborhoods, and Amabel is no exception. Flanked by mature trees, the house, and an optional vegetative fence, each back or side yard will be a sanctuary to quietly enjoy the site's amazing beauty or to host private gatherings. Front yards will have layers of personal space between the shared commons and the front door: a border of perennial plantings, the private front yard, and a covered porch large enough to serve as an outdoor room. Within the houses the layering continues, with active spaces oriented toward the commons and private spaces located further back and above. To ensure privacy between neighbors, the cottages "nest" together: The houses are situated at the edges of their lots to maximize yard space. The sides of the houses that are closest to each other have small elevated windows to insure privacy.

A culture of sustainability and resource-use reduction will be integral to Amabel. The homes will be built to achieve ultra airtight, net-zero energy efficiency, with roof solar exposure maximized for photovoltaic energy production. With the use of all-electric appliances, devices, and heat sources, the utility bill for each household that chooses to install solar panels is designed to net out annually at zero. Edible landscaping and water collection at each of the houses will be encouraged, and a large central courtyard for a community garden will be provided and defined. The location of Amabel further decreases greenhouse-gas emissions by reducing the need for a car and, consequently, vehicle miles traveled.



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The Amabel vision considers communication and connection among people to be as much a part of a vibrant, sustainable future as powerful, technological advances are. Even though we naturally form tribes and groups, people wonder,

“Can I really have playful, judgment-free relationships with my neighbors? Can we easily resolve the problems that may arise?”

These are valid concerns: Care, respect, and trust do not simply happen. It is no coincidence that “community” and “communication” share the same root: “commun.” To “commune” means “to be in a state of sensitivity and receptivity.

To that end, Amabel residents will have the opportunity to learn a new communication modality that Sue Cosentini has taught for over five years at Ithaca College and once a month at Ithaca Community Childcare, called The Listening Workshop. The workshop’s distinct approach to communication provides powerful access to strong bonds of care, respect, and trust. Instead of listening through our typical filters of judgment, problem solving, questions, advice, or the classic “my similar story or experience”. This way of listening allows us to respond based on other people’s experience instead of our own perspectives.



In addition to this powerful method of communication, an engaging people-centered process called Amabel Connection will make getting to know one another on a deep and supportive level fun and easy. The process will begin with resident-only interactive pages on the Amabel website. The next steps will include in-person gatherings, dinners, hikes, gardening, and engaging, playful workshops. By the time residents move in, they will have discovered what their neighbors really care about. After move-in, residents will co-create the core values of Amabel along with systems and practices that, over time, will support strong bonds of trust, play, and ease.

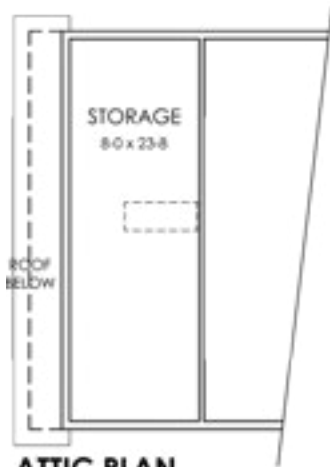
For the care and maintenance of the road and water/sewer systems, residents will be members of a homeowners association. The brilliant new collaborative organizational method called Dynamic Governance is intended to be the primary decision-making tool.



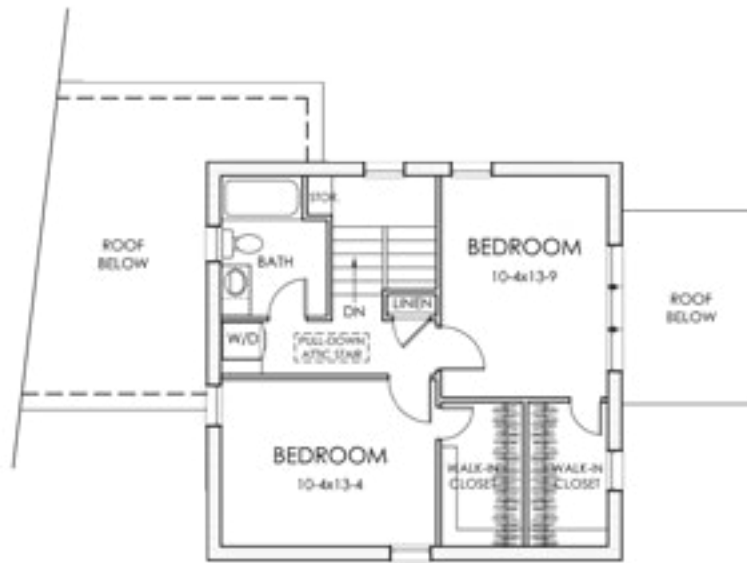
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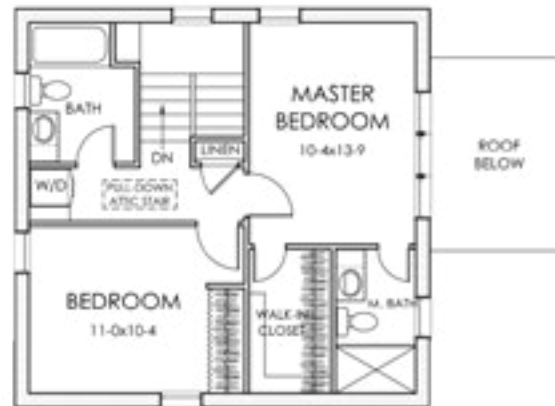
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ATTIC PLAN



ALTERNATE SECOND FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

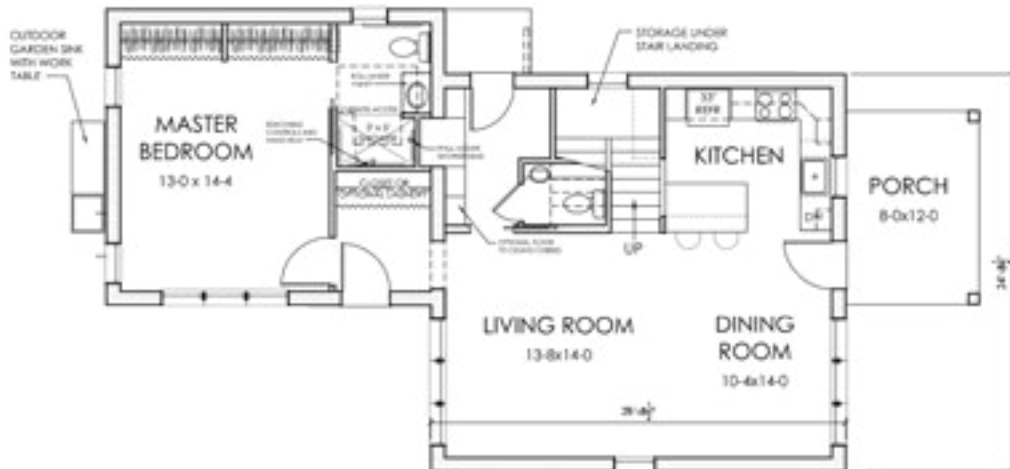
BRIN

1270sf BASE MODEL
 1646sf with master suite A or B
 1737sf with master suite C or D

NOTE: Window arrangement and attic access point may vary, based on orientation selected.



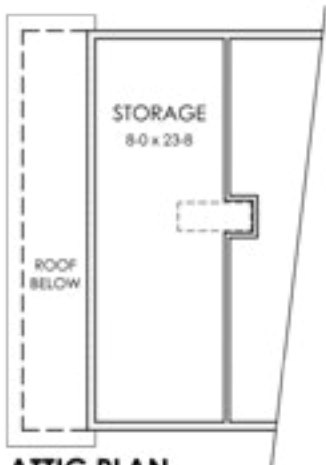
**AMABEL POCKET
 NEIGHBORHOOD**



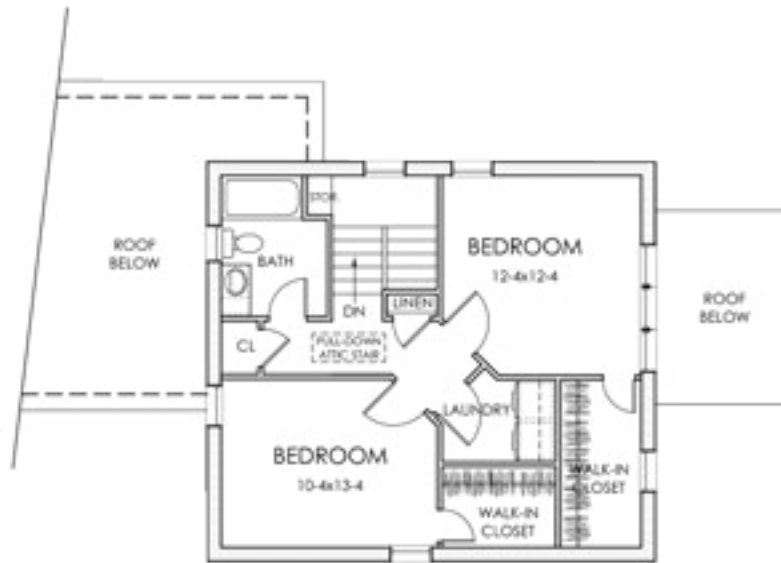
FIRST FLOOR PLAN - shown with master suite A



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ALTERNATE SECOND FLOOR PLAN

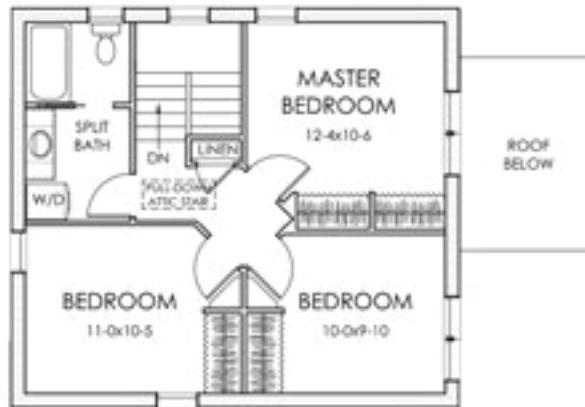
CORA

1368sf BASE MODEL
 1744sf with master suite A or B
 1835sf with master suite C or D

NOTE: Window arrangement and attic access point may vary, based on orientation selected.



**AMABEL POCKET
 NEIGHBORHOOD**



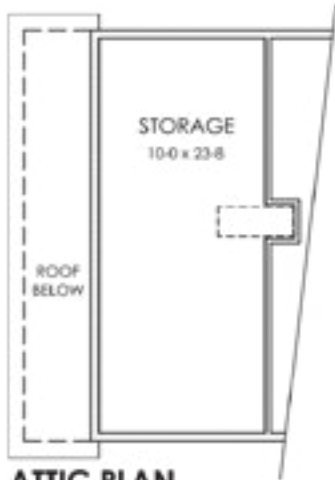
SECOND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN - Shown with master suite B



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ATTIC PLAN



ALTERNATE SECOND FLOOR PLAN

DREA

1616sf BASE MODEL
 1992sf with master suite A or B
 2083sf with master suite C or D

NOTE: Window arrangement and attic access point may vary, based on orientation selected.



**AMABEL POCKET
 NEIGHBORHOOD**



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN - Shown with master suite D



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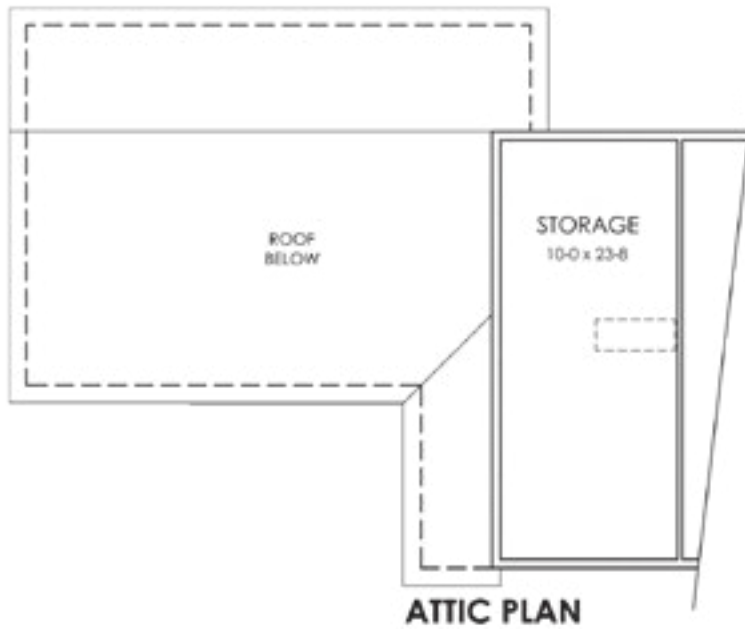
**FIRST FLOOR
MASTER SUITE
OPTIONS**



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NEIGHBORHOOD**



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AMABEL POCKET NEIGHBORHOOD

EMORY

1184sf with master suite A or B
1275sf with master suite C or D

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Interior Finishes

First floor flooring: Polished concrete with acrylic finish

Second floor flooring: Hardwood stair landing, carpet in bedrooms and hallways, tile bath

Appliances: \$5,000 appliance allowance per home. Dryers are condensing type.

Cabinets: Medium grade, manufacturer to be determined

Countertops: Granite

Tubs and showers: Aquaglass tub and shower systems

Windows: Marvin Integrity All-Ultrex high performing windows

Window sills: Hardwood with bullnosed or live edge nosings

Window trim: Drywall returns

Door trim: Painted 1x 3x $\frac{3}{4}$ "

Baseboard: Painted 1x 4x $\frac{3}{4}$ "

Stairs: Maple treads with painted housings and risers

Interior doors: Shaker style recessed panel



Mechanical & Technical

Heating and cooling: Air source heat pumps, (ASHP)

Fresh air exchange: Heat Recovery Ventilator

Domestic hot water: Super insulated electric storage tank

Ventilation: Whisper Green bath exhaust fans with motion sensors, kitchen vented range hood

Thermal blanket: EPS foam break and 2lb. spray foam with solstice blowing agent



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		SF square footage	# Bdrms	# Baths	Price	First 5 houses: 10k discount	Mrtg pmnt/mo. 30 yrs/3.75% (80% LTV)
Brin	alternate 2nd floor plan	1270	2	1.5	321,621.00	311,621.00	\$1,102.13
Brin	2nd floor master suite	1270	2	2.5	331,921.00	321,921.00	\$1,138.56
Cora	both 2nd floor plans	1368	3	1.5	333,224.00	323,224.00	\$1,143.17
Drea	alternate 2nd floor plan	1616	3	1.5	342,225.00	332,225.00	\$1,175.00
Drea	2nd floor master suite	1616	3	2.5	352,525.00	342,525.00	\$1,211.43
Brin	A or B master suite	1646	3	2.5	378,211.00	368,211.00	\$1,302.28
Brin	C or D master suite	1737	3	2.5	389,615.00	379,615.00	\$1,342.61
Cora	A or B master suite	1744	4	2.5	390,922.00	380,922.00	\$1,347.23
Cora	C or D master suite	1835	4	2.5	402,042.00	392,042.00	\$1,386.56
Drea	A or B master suite	1992	4	2.5	398,326.00	388,326.00	\$1,373.42
Drea	C or D master suite	2083	4	2.5	410,472.00	400,472.00	\$1,416.38
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Emory	A or B master suite	1184	1	1.5	317,852.00	307,852.00	\$1,088.80
Emory	C or D master	1275	1	1.5	331,976.00	321,976.00	\$1,138.75

Includes: Turnkey home on ~50'-55' X ~100'-110' lot, private yard, large courtyard and community garden, central bike, kayak and garden barn, and stone fire circle.

These are very high performing homes in both energy use and reduction of maintenance costs. Once solar panels are installed, the cost to power all the functions in the home from refrigerator to space heating is projected to be zero, yielding a typical savings of \$200+/month. The roofs are baked-on painted steel for durability and clean water collection, the exterior cladding is stained masonry; the maintenance on these homes will be significantly reduced from a typical wood frame structure.

Amabel is located in the Ithaca school district, Beverly J. Martin Elementary school. Taxes in the town of Ithaca are approximately \$32/\$1000 in assessed value.

Together we can create a vibrant, resilient future that starts today.



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Budget for First Year of Amabel HOA Operation

Projected Income

Annual Assessment per Home:	\$784.82
Monthly Installment per Home:	\$65.40

Projected Expenses For The Entire HOA

Utilities	\$23.00
Water for Community	\$100.00
Garden Barn Maintenance	\$500.00
Service Contract Lawn Maintenance	\$1,900.00
Snow Removal	\$9,000.00
Sanitary Sewer System Operating and Maintenance	\$4,000.00
Fun, Play and Ease Catalyst	\$60.00
Insurance Premiums	\$1,383.00
Legal Fees	\$250.00
Accounting Fees	\$600.00
Real Estate Tax	\$507.36
Reserve	\$3,000.00
Road Maintenance	\$3,006.00
TOTAL	\$24,329.36





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To purchase a home and parcel at Amabel or to get answers to your questions, please email Sue Cosentini at coz@newearthliving.net or call 607-277-2700



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