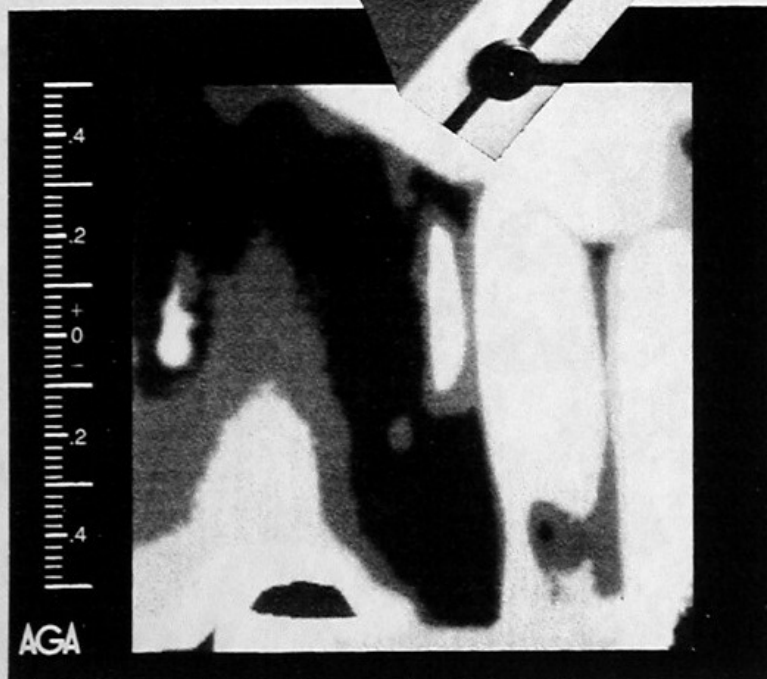


House Doctors with Better Medicine

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Princeton Energy Partners use the latest diagnostic tools to comb a house for the major causes of heat loss. Their findings are often astonishing. Their strong prescriptions bring results.

PEP's Ken Gadsby views a convective loop through AGA's 782 thermal scanner. The dark areas evidence cold air falling from the attic into an interior wall—replacing warm air lost. The infrared image is adjusted to appear in discrete grey tones—the darker the colder.



Photos by Steve Bliss

By Steve Bliss

At 8 o'clock in the morning, a crack team of energy sleuths with an arsenal of arcane monitoring devices lays siege to a turn-of-the-century estate in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. The goal is clear: to save the client the most energy dollars possible in a day's work. In addition, the team will recommend other measures—in order of priority—the owners should consider after the house doctors are gone. To accomplish all this and make a profit, the Princeton Energy Partners (PEP) crew wastes no time. Within minutes, the front door is plugged with a cumbersome, but precisely calibrated, oversized fan, the infrared scanner is activated, and the smoke gun may be awash in thick white smoke. They take a reading on the blower door to see where they are starting—in this case, the house leaks 32 air changes per hour (ach) at 50 pascals.

Steve Bliss is an associate editor at Solar Age.