



UM-Flint, Land Bank partner on urban housing model

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FLINT, Michigan -- A vacant house on Garland Street will be transformed from a dank, crumbling squatters' paradise into an energy-efficient urban learning experience under a partnership between the University of Michigan-Flint and the Genesee County Land Bank.

Although the project is still in the early planning stages, the goal is to incorporate classrooms and living area into the approximately 5,000-square-foot rooming house built more than 100 years ago. It will ideally serve as a model for city dwellers on how to live in an energy-conscious age.

"We're going to do things here that are different," said Richard Hill-Rowley, an associate professor of earth and resource science and head of the project. "Hopefully, the professionals we work with on the house will have ideas."

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