

How to do it

You can spend big bucks to make your home more friendly to the environment, but there are many small improvements that won't cost a lot of money. Here's a guide that shows "luxury" and "economy" improvements.

Bathroom

Luxury: Dual-flush toilet, \$300 and up

Economy: Low-flow faucet aerators for sinks, \$2; low-flow shower head, \$5 and up; low-flow toilet, \$100

Irrigation

Luxury: System with different sprinklers for grass and plants, ground moisture sensors and underground cistern for rainwater collection connected to downspouts, pump, \$5,000 and up

Economy: Rain barrels, \$50 to \$100, for each downspout; high-efficiency sprinkler heads, \$40 and up

Landscaping

Luxury: Redesign yard for maximum water savings: no storm water runoff, all native plants, hardscaping, use of plants and trees to shade structure, \$12,000 and up

Economy: Compost bin, \$10 and up; native and drought-tolerant plants, \$100 and up

Air conditioning/heating

Luxury: Ground-source heat pump system for heat and air conditioning that draws hot or cold air from ground rather than air, using hundreds of feet of vertical pipe, \$15,000

Economy: Ceiling fans, \$40 and up

Note: Costs are estimates and are based on a 2,000-square-foot house on a 6,000-square-foot lot.

Sources: Jay Hall, U.S. Green Building Council; Times research; Andersen-Miller Design

RAOUL RAÑO *Los Angeles Times*

Energy consumption

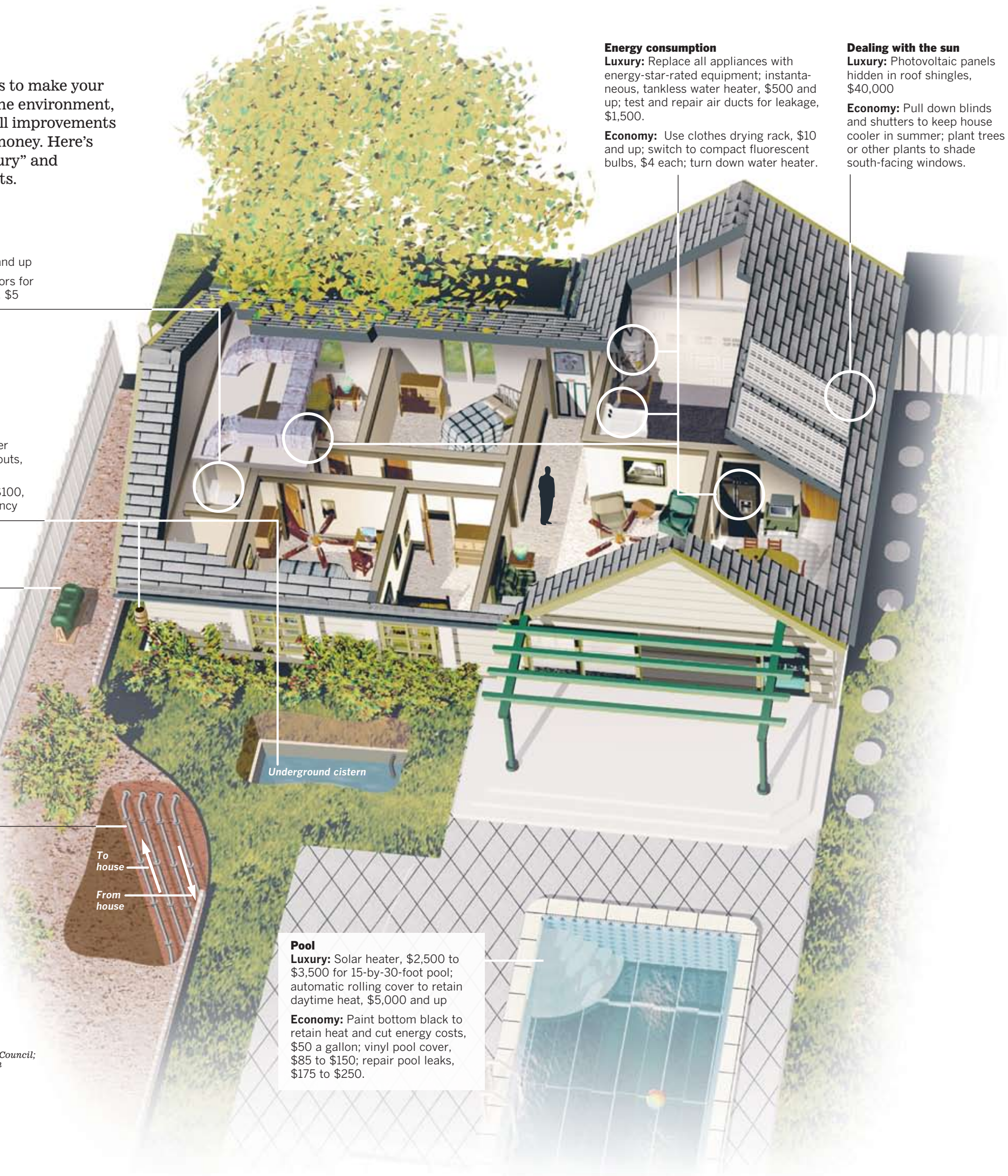
Luxury: Replace all appliances with energy-star-rated equipment; instantaneous, tankless water heater, \$500 and up; test and repair air ducts for leakage, \$1,500.

Economy: Use clothes drying rack, \$10 and up; switch to compact fluorescent bulbs, \$4 each; turn down water heater.

Dealing with the sun

Luxury: Photovoltaic panels hidden in roof shingles, \$40,000

Economy: Pull down blinds and shutters to keep house cooler in summer; plant trees or other plants to shade south-facing windows.



Underground cistern

To house

From house

Pool

Luxury: Solar heater, \$2,500 to \$3,500 for 15-by-30-foot pool; automatic rolling cover to retain daytime heat, \$5,000 and up

Economy: Paint bottom black to retain heat and cut energy costs, \$50 a gallon; vinyl pool cover, \$85 to \$150; repair pool leaks, \$175 to \$250.