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Empyrean International Launches HingeHouse by Maryann Thompson

Acton, MA. May 30, 2008 - Empyrean International, designers and manufacturers of Acorn Homes, Deck House and the dwell homes by Empyrean brands, announces the launch of a new collection of modern home designs called the HingeHouse -- created by award-winning architect, Maryann Thompson.

HingeHouse is the latest home design under 'the dwell homes by Empyrean' line of modern living spaces, which was developed in partnership with Dwell Magazine.

HingeHouse is pre-manufactured using Empyrean's component-based building system, which allows for a degree of design flexibility that typically is not available in other prefabricated or modular options. HingeHouse designs begin with a basic floor plan, which can be easily customized to fit any site by rotating around its "hinge" points. These site-specific designs incorporate passive solar orientation; sun exposure appropriate to the climate; siting according to prevailing winds to maximize cross-ventilation; and proper placement to preserve existing rocks and trees, address a sloping grade or achieve desired views and privacy.

"Empyrean's post and beam component system has been the quiet medium through which HingeHouse and its family of designs truly shines," notes Maryann Thompson. "The structural logic of the system, along with time-proven techniques of efficient space planning, has allowed for the development of this new family of 'the dwell homes by Empyrean' that elevates the value of the site for the homeowner. The concept of the hinge in each design is the starting point for a unique and collaborative opportunity with each new homeowner to achieve a fully customizable, sustainable and modern home -- one that takes advantage of natural light, topography and views."

"There is a growing desire for responsibly-designed, superior modern homes that provide a living connection between indoors and out," said Patrick Gilrane, CEO of Empyrean International. "The addition of HingeHouse to our collection of the dwell homes by Empyrean means we now offer a range of options to clients seeking these design features. We are delighted to partner with a world-class architect like Maryann Thompson."

Maryann Thompson FAIA was educated at Princeton University and the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University, where she is currently a member of the Architecture faculty. She founded Maryann Thompson Architects in 2000. a practice deeply committed to sustainability and the connection between architecture and landscape. Thompson carries degrees in both architecture and landscape architecture. She has received two *AIA National Honor Awards*, numerous *AIA New England Design Honor Awards*, *BSA Honor Awards for Design Excellence* and the *AIA National Young Architects Citation*.

Empyrean International designs and manufactures high-quality custom homes including Acorn Homes, Deck House and the dwell homes by Empyrean brands. For more than 60 years the company has manufactured site-specific, custom-designed homes and is a leader in application of sustainable home building technologies and features. Empyrean is headquartered in Acton, Massachusetts. They design, manufacture and ship homes throughout the world.