



GREEN LIVING



STORY BY JUSTIN SCHNEIDER
PHOTOS BY JOHN P. CLEARY

The 'Giant' is artwork and living area, throwback and futuristic

Vic Cook set out to create a new way of living.

In 1978, the Anderson native bought 2 1/2 acres on the banks of Fall Creek and began building his masterpiece.

Both artwork and living area, simultaneously a throwback and futuristic, the "Giant" is the fruit of Cook's labor, and it's unlike any home you've ever seen.

"What I've done is kind of a daring thing and very unusual," said Cook, a self-proclaimed artist, musician, scientist and philosopher. "The home came from the forest. It's a total departure from the average home we see in America."

Cook drew inspiration from both the past and the future in realizing his vision. The name "Giant" came from Neil Armstrong's moon-landing quote ("One small step for a man, one giant

leap for mankind") and the idea of building a "monument to nature" grew out of childhood nature walks with Cook's father.



Cook

Disillusioned by over-consumption and complacency in America, Cook called for a return to nature. During construction, which lasted from the spring of 1978 to late 1979, he turned his dream into a reality.

"There were a couple things that took a back seat in this project," Cook said. "No. 1 is luxury. No.2 is ultra-convenience. Those two things are out of control in America in our society."

In nearly 30 years, Cook has never received a utility bill, but his home has modern amenities including a big-screen television, two computers and a modern recording studio. His electricity comes from solar panels in the form of



Above: For the "Giant," Vic Cook turned a beech tree into a refrigerator by lining the hollow trunk with high-tech foil insulation. The fridge draws cold air from underground and can keep ice cream frozen and beer cold.

