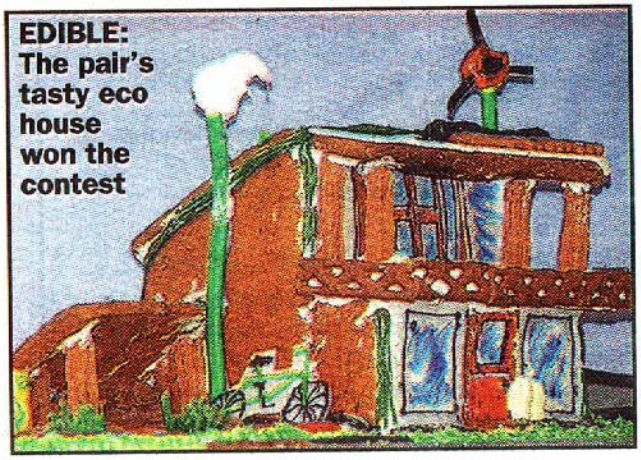
The Argus
City Edition
38p Monday, February 11, 2008 theargus.co.uk EDF Energy Daily Newspaper of th

PICTURES: SAM STEPHENSON SS070208E-4



HOUSEPROUD: Maria Hawton-Mead fought off competition

SS070208E-4



EDIBLE: The pair's tasty eco house won the contest

Sweet success for baking duo

TWO students have won an award for building a gingerbread house.

Maria Hawton-Mead, who lives and works in Brighton, and fellow student Gavin Harper fought off competition from across the globe to win the award.

It was presented by The Terry Project, which launched the competition to build a gingerbread house of the future – a home as efficient in its use of energy, water and materials as it was delicious.

After trawling the supermarkets for edible items to use, Ms Hawton-Mead and Mr Harper began baking shortly before Christmas. And their effort has now beaten other entries, including an eco-friendly White House.

Ms Hawton-Mead said: "We thought it would be a bit of fun. Ours must have won because it had more elements of sustainability."

The design incorporates pillars made of trees from sustainably managed forests (chocolate flakes) and sheep's wool insulation (candy floss).

Ms Hawton-Mead, who is working on an ecological property renovation, said she transferred her work into the kitchen.