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## Italian hill town inspires complex

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[http://www.dj.com/stories/images/20070730/IssaquahTownhomes\\_big.jpg](http://www.dj.com/stories/images/20070730/IssaquahTownhomes_big.jpg)

Image courtesy Mahlum Architects [enlarge]

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A new 80-unit complex of townhomes east of Lake Sammamish is designed to be a Northwest-style version of an Italian hill town, according to the architect, Robert Lober of Mahlum Architects. The Dwelling Co. of Mercer Island is developer and contractor for the project, which will cost about \$20 million to build. The nine-acre site is off Interstate 90 at the corner of East Lake Sammamish Way and Southeast 43rd Street. There will be 17 buildings in three curving rows set on a hillside. A private driveway will circle the buildings and narrow allies will cut between them. Pedestrian and vehicular traffic will share a landscaped central spine, creating walkways and viewpoints down the hillside. Site work began in June, and construction is expected to start by September. Prices will start in the upper \$400,000s. The units will have flat entry canopies suspended by exposed iron bars. There will be screened roof terraces off the master bedrooms. Interior stairs will have open risers and the windows will be operable to facilitate cross ventilation. Other team members are ESM Consulting Engineers, civil engineering; Talasaea Consultants, environmental consultant; Swanson Say Faget, structural engineering; The Greenbusch Group, acoustical consultant, and Murase Associates, landscaping consultant.