

Green design powers future

World Class



■ By Grant Taylor

ENVIRONMENTAL architect Garry Baverstock is helping West Australians build a better future.

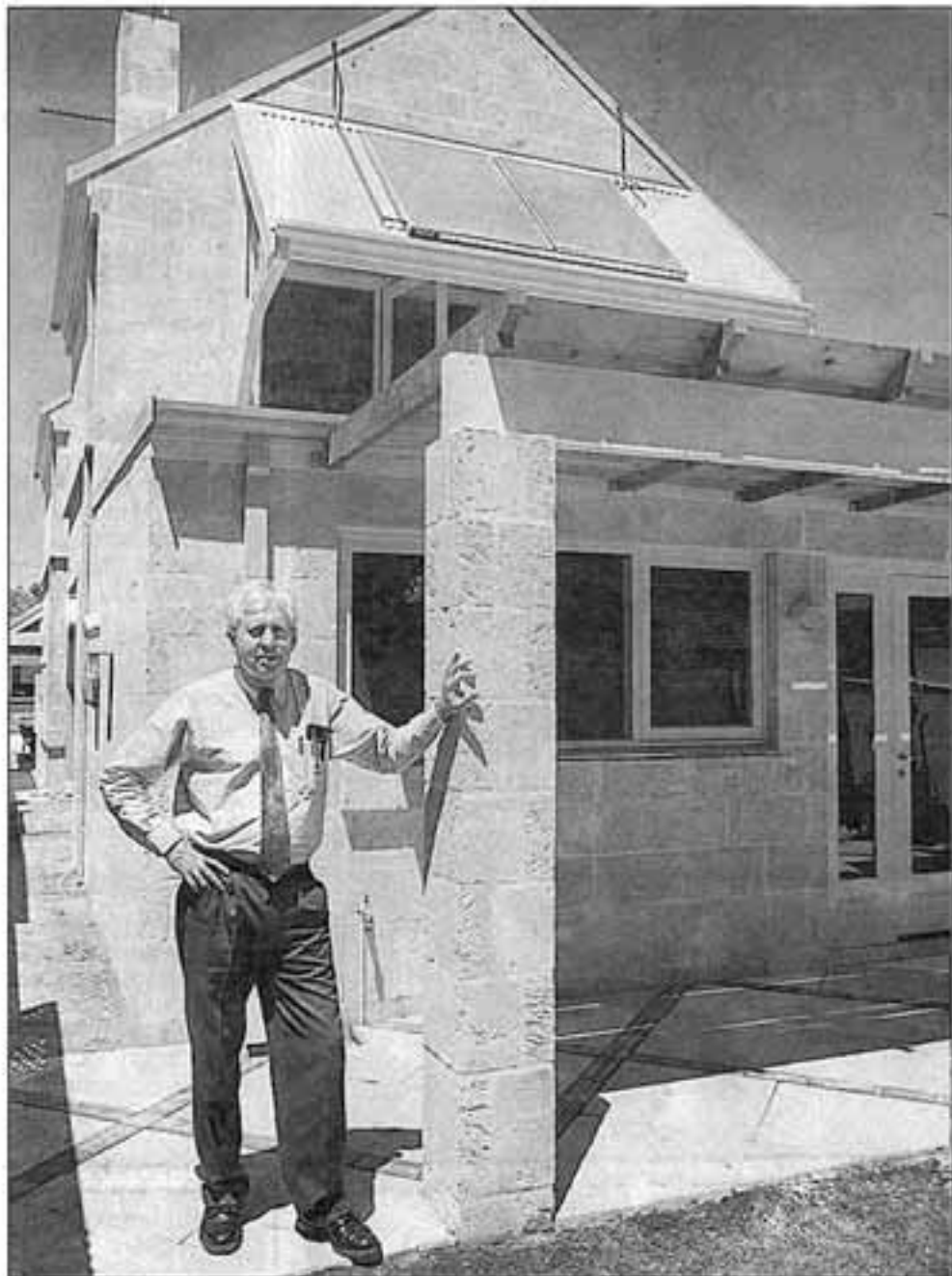
Using passive solar technology, his award-winning home and office designs dramatically reduce energy consumption and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr Baverstock, 52, said that despite the promise of lower power bills, many people were still unconvinced about the benefits of "green" design technology.

"A well designed home can save you up to \$30,000 in energy costs over 10 years, but that message has been hard to get through to the average person," he said. "It's mainly because people don't actually believe you can design a building to stay between 18C and 28C all year round."

At a basic level, passive solar design involves orientating the home to maximise exposure to the sun in winter and reduce exposure in summer.

Mr Baverstock has also patented an innovative night ventilation system and other unique features which have earned him



Sun king: Garry Baverstock says that between Perth and Geraldton is the best place on Earth for passive solar designs. PICTURE: DON PALMER

recognition as a leader in his field. His interest in environmental architecture began in the early 70s at the height of the world energy crisis.

"I believe between here and Geraldton is the best place on Earth for solar energy and passive solar design," he said. "We've got the cooling breezes in the afternoon, cool night temperatures and fantastic radiation figures. That's why I have just

flatly refused to be involved in any building since about 1978 where the client wants me to do things that are counter-productive to energy savings."

One of Mr Baverstock's projects was the Piney Lakes eco-centre built by the City of Melville. He has also worked on plans for a university campus in Geraldton which would run on solar and wind-generated power.