

Energy savings can be built in

HOME fuel bills can be cut by 80 per cent according to Tecto architect and solar consultant Mr Gary Baverstock.

Tecto designs homes are energy efficient and designed to make use of the sun and the environment.

The current trend was moving towards more traditional construction methods.

Tecto works on four basic solar principles. They are: the collection of solar energy and the storage, distribution and control of it.

"These are the cornerstones of solar design," Mr Baverstock said.

They can be achieved easily by placing windows correctly and using insulation, ventilation and shading.

Generally in the north of the state a home needs more permanent shading and small windows. In the south mass storage of energy is important and alternatives such as mud brick and rammed earth with concrete floors are effective.

Features such as a high roof, solarium, eclipse pergolas, north-south facing windows, insulation and the axis the building is on all help achieve a climatically controlled home.