

Northern sun 'is our right'

By LINDA CALLAGHAN

Sun on your roof should be a right that councils protect, architect Garry Baverstock told Nedlands councillors.

The man who has notched up 18 awards for designing solar-efficient buildings was talking about devising planning policies that can harness the power of the sun.

He recently drafted a solar skyline policy, thought to be the first in Australia, for Mandurah council.

It is designed to protect individuals from insensitive development next door.

"Sun on roofs and sun on northern facades are a right. Governments need to protect people from neighbours who do not respect that," he said.

Pedestrians should have the right to choose to walk in the sun or in the shade and the design of buildings should give them that choice, he said.

"Development of solar energy will become more and more the norm," said Mr Baverstock.

"When I started 20 years ago some of my friends laughed, they thought I had cracked.

"They thought I was mad. Years later they were paying \$200 to hear me talk."

The right design can reduce energy consumption by 75 per cent, Mr Baverstock told councillors.

"The economics stack up. The biggest problem is ignorance of what can be done and ignorance of technology and the lack of people to put it together."

If planning authorities adopted solar skyline policies they could



It might look like a heritage cottage but this Shenton Park home has an up-to-the minute design that makes it an energy efficient delight.

help educate people and open the door to more use of solar energy.

Mr Baverstock has designed a variety of homes in Cottesloe, Mt Claremont and Shenton Park.

Now he is being consulted by planning chiefs in Hong Kong with a view to reshaping the city.

Role model

"It has the potential to be the city that leads the way in China. It will be a role model for development in South-East Asia."

He said Hong Kong was an environmental planning disaster area where buildings were generally ripped down after 10 years and replaced.

"It is a three-dimensional problem. I have the answer already in my mind.

"It can increase density, create more views of the harbour and increase real estate

values."

Mr Baverstock said he was confident his ideas could transform Hong Kong in 30 to 50 years.

And under its solar skyline policy, Mandurah would come of age in 20 to 30 years, he said.

He said the council had called him in because it was conscious property developers were paying a lot of attention to Mandurah and it would grow quickly.

The principles could be applied to any style of building, from Mediterranean to Federation, he said.

"In the early days, solar houses looked funny because they were designed by engineers and physicists who were more interested in the Space Shuttle," he said.

"It is possible to design any style whatever - we can still give

people granite surfaces in their kitchen.

"I just do not compromise on orientation."

Mr Baverstock described some of the features of a Perth Zoo building he designed.

The building was chilled by cool night air, which reduced the air-conditioning bill by 30 per cent.

In winter a solar

booster heated air coming into the building so there was free heating, said Mr Baverstock.

"It is a state-of-the-art building that works," he said.

He said the zoo building was 75 per cent more energy efficient than the same sized Bayswater council headquarters which were built about 10 years ago.



Garry Baverstock with a Cottesloe house that uses nature for heating and cooling, including angled louvres.