

Solar games room cuts heating costs

A NEW concept in solar energy use in housing has been pioneered in WA.

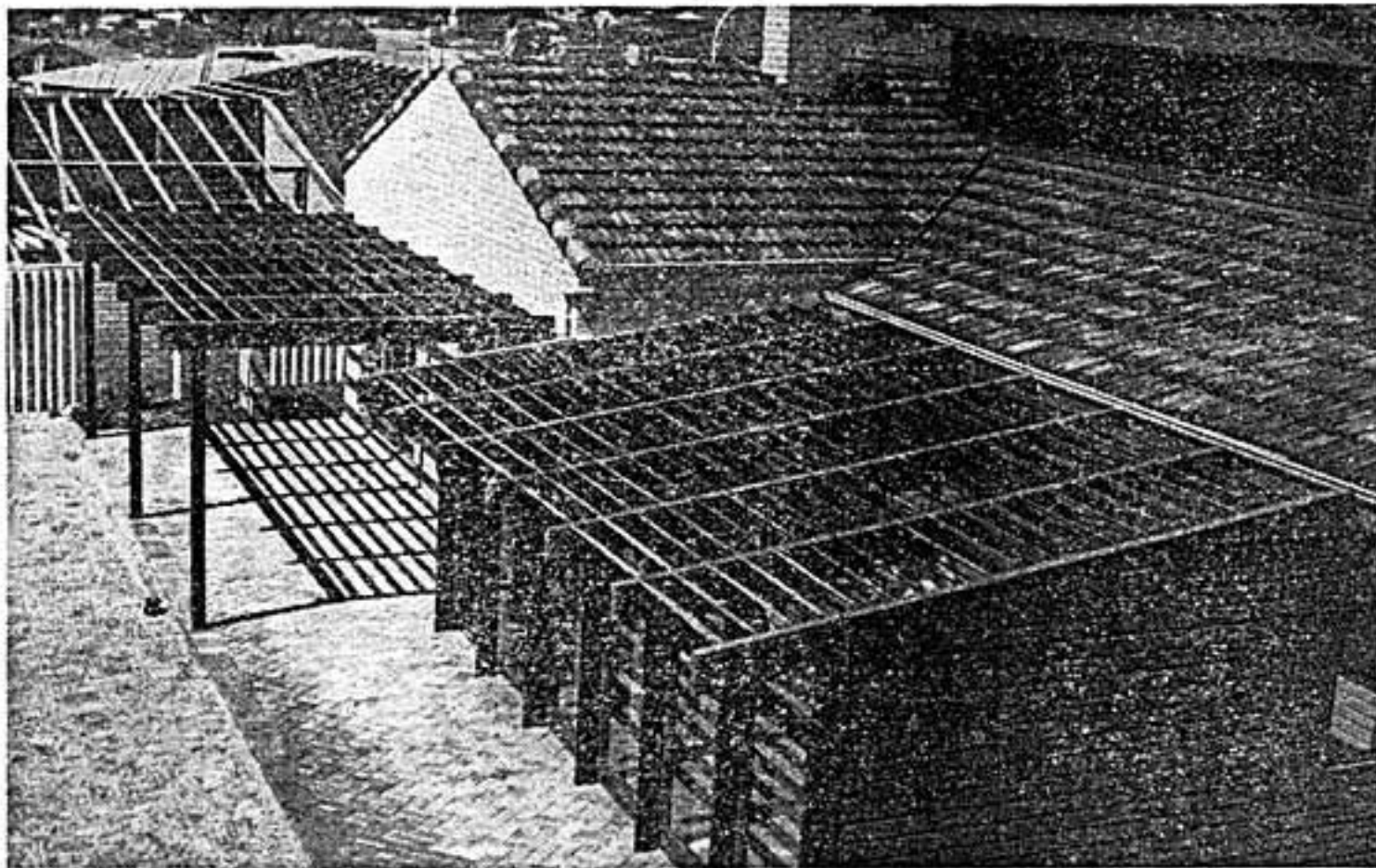
It takes the form of a pergola and a garden games room that can be built on to existing houses or incorporated in the construction of new houses.

It has been developed by solar and energy use design consultants, Tectoprojects, to be available in kit form so that it can be installed by the home handyman.

Mr Garry Baverstock, the architect-director of Tectoprojects, says the pergola is designed to admit 70 to 80 per cent of winter sun when the sun is at a low angle in the sky and to cut out 75 per cent of rays when the sun is at a high angle in the summer.

The sloping beams of the sun-controlled garden games room under which a glass house can be attached permit maximum entry of winter sun and minimum entry of summer sun.

The room can be used as a sun room, games room or greenhouse in a



□ The angled blades of the sun-controlled garden/games room (foreground) permit maximum entry of winter sun and minimum entry of summer sun.

series of sizes from three metres square up to six metres by four metres.

It can be installed by handyman, preferably with the help of a carpenter.

Enquiries on the garden games room can be made to

Tectoprojects, 28A Charles St, South Perth, phone 367 1318. The final prices are not yet decided. Costings are currently being made on prototypes.

Mr Baverstock says the construction is of fairly

simple column-beam type with one type of moulding, and standard sheets of toughened safety glass were employed.

Timber is the predominant construction material and the beams, columns and mouldings are of rel-

atively short lengths. The blades are cut from large lengths into short sections.

Timber, mostly jarrah, is chosen because of its aesthetic value and marketability. The beams and columns are joinery-quality

hardwood and the blades of durable softwood.

The side walls are of clear finish jarrah weatherboard, and it is preferable to have them on the east and west sides of the greenhouse.

● More Page 3

New style pergola

● From Page 1

Mr Baverstock says the main purpose of the concept is to reduce winter heating bills. Most of Perth's energy bills are expended on space and water heating.

The games room is designed to substantially reduce and even eliminate the need for space heating in well-designed houses, and all houses can benefit to some degree from reducing heating costs, he says.

It allows winter light and warmth into the rooms of a house whose windows it abuts, so it also has the effect of reducing lighting costs.

Summer

On summer nights it is the coolest room in the house because of the speed with which it loses heat.

Designs had been formulated to apply the concept to a variety of climates throughout Australia.

Mr Baverstock says that the Forest Products Association has given him financial support in return for progress reports on progress and development.

About 50 per cent of the funding for the research has come from the Australian Industrial Research and Development Incentives Scheme.