

Baverstock wins solar centre deal

SOUTH Perth architect Garry Baverstock has won the contract to design WA's international solar science centre which will showcase the latest in Australian renewable energy technologies.

Mr Baverstock, whose solar-designed building with sail-like photovoltaic panels and energy tower was chosen ahead of three other shortlisted entrants, said 20 years ago there was virtually no interest in energy efficient, solar-designed buildings.

"It's great to see a lot of architects now taking these ideas on board," he said at the announcement on Monday as part of WA Architecture Week.

"The architectural profession is a leader in this area and can make things happen in the next 20 years. A lot of people in government are well aware we have to save energy in buildings in light of our national commitment to reducing greenhouse gases."

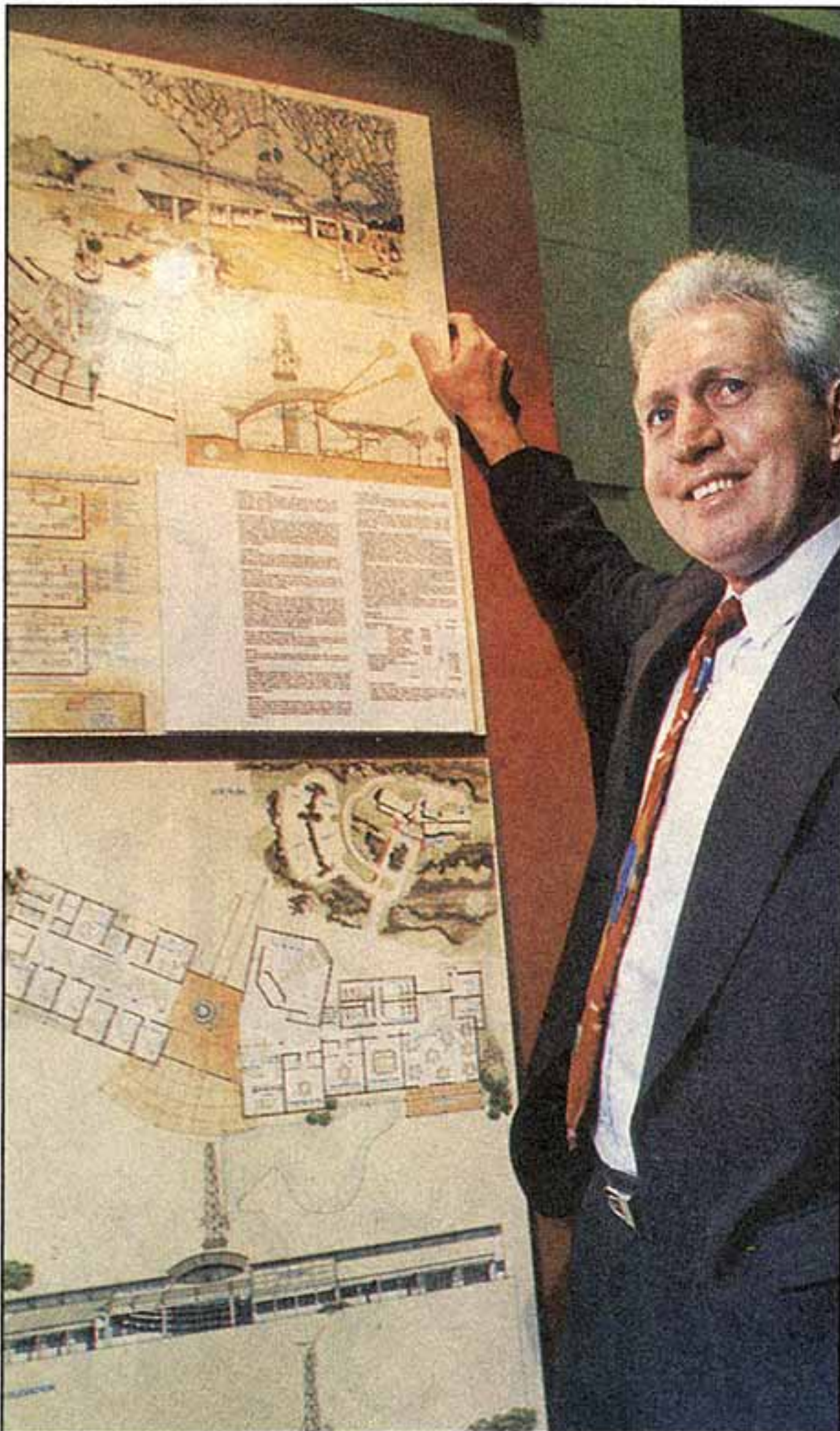
The winning design for the new Centre for the Application of Solar Energy, CASE, took a five-member team from Baverstock Associates six weeks to complete.

CASE is a joint initiative of the State and Federal governments and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, which chose WA as its international headquarters.

The solar research and development centre was also expected to boost WA's reputation as a centre for the commercialisation of solar energy technologies in Australia.

The CASE building, which Mr Baverstock said would cost an estimated \$1.5 million, would be orientated north to take advantage of winter sun conditions, recycle its own wastes and include roof-mounted solar air collectors, double-glazed windows and solar pergolas.

The building, which will house a permanent workforce of 20 people probably at Murdoch University, will achieve energy savings of up to 80 per cent compared with conventional buildings.



Energy efficient: Architect Garry Baverstock with his winning design for the international solar science building. PICTURE: MICHAEL O'BRIEN.