



Solar design the right course for retired captain

A SEAFARER has shown his environmental concerns in planning his active retirement years as a landlubber.

After 40 years in shipping, Captain Roger Pettman and his wife, Pat, wanted an energy-efficient, passive-solar retirement home in Kalamunda.

He bought a block of land opposite the old railway station and subdivided it on advice from solar architect Garry Baverstock. The subsequent battle-axe subdivision allowed both blocks to exploit a northerly aspect for passive-solar benefits.

Taking the front site, Capt. and Mrs Pettman's home rates as a 60 per cent energy saver. Gas bills are negligible and hot water is from a solar unit integrated into the corrugated roof.

The roof contains a double layer of insulation and there is a foam sheet in the wall cavities. Internal walls are solid clay bricks and, with the concrete floor, they soak up the winter sunshine that penetrates indoors and radiate it back at night.

Capt. Pettman monitored temperatures in the house over different seasons and found they varied by less than 3deg in winter and 5deg in summer.

The facade reflects a colonial theme that complements the railway station in the historic village.

The vestibule entry opens to a private sitting room on one side and a study on the other. A door at the back of the vestibule opens to the casual areas with a ceiling that soars to a height of more than 5m. A lofty clerestory window allows full sun penetration in winter while excluding it in summer.

The kitchen, directly below, is stun-

ning with polished granite work benches. The gas hotplates are recessed so they are not visible from the nearby dining area. Over these hotplates is a contemporary glass canopy attached to a stainless-steel flue. Cupboards have an american oak finish and include plate racks as well as china cabinets.

A floating oak parquet floor in this area extends into a family room. French doors here, in the sitting room and in the main bedroom link the rooms to a side courtyard.

Corner windows let the winter morning sun into the breakfast area and the lounge, and breeze traps allow efficient cross-ventilation in summer.

The passive solar home is not open for inspection but inquiries can be made to the architect at Baverstock Murphy and Associates on 9386 3888.

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Roger Pettman relaxes in his Kalamunda home. Pictures: ROBERT DUNCAN

