



Passive solar for an active lifestyle

A COUPLE wanting a passive solar home for their retirement were equally keen on a bush environment.

They bought a bigger-than-average block in Country Road, Busselton, because of its stand of peppermint gums and marri trees, wanting their home to merge into this tranquil scene.

The solution from architect Garry Baverstock was to have the home at the back of the site where it faced this bush and its dappled sunlight filtering through treetops.

But the house is sufficiently clear of trees to get the full benefit of the low winter sun to the north.

This achieved another important factor in

giving the home maximum privacy, helped by a driveway meandering round trees to the south elevation. As a result the main outlook is to the north and the main access is from a veranda to the south.

David and Christine McDonald wanted to enhance their lifestyle in the remainder of their busy professional years while looking ahead to active retirement.

Their new home has already significantly changed their lifestyle.

They have a design with a feeling of great space in the relatively open plan in which the bush environment is integrated.

Spaces have been enlivened by roof trusses

below clerestory windows and solar skylights. These allow the winter sun to warm the middle of the home, creating an even and soft light.

The hall acts as a wind lobby and creates a double-glazing effect to the cold south side in winter, retaining indoor heat.

It has been calculated that the design will save more than 60 per cent in energy costs with the solar hotwater included, and the temperature range will be from 18deg on the coldest day to 28deg in the middle of summer.

There is one big living area next to a dining area. An internal window wall separates the study, allowing visual contact with noise control.

A pergola in the north-east corner is for the

breakfast area, ensuring a bright introduction to each day. It has a servery direct to the kitchen, where bench cupboards form a U-shaped work area.

Timber floors indoors complete the tranquil scene and the joinery throughout is jarrah, providing a natural contrast to the robust colours selected for the interior.

The home is not open for inspection but inquiries can be directed to Baverstock Murphy and Associates on phone 9368 3888 or email solartec@iinet.net.au