



Solar home at one with the bush

THE ecologically minded owners went to great lengths in siting their passive-solar home to cause the minimum intrusion to the Brigadoon environment.

They succeeded in keeping every tree on their heavily-wooded, 1.8ha bush block for their bold, retro-1950s design.

It looks great by day and is even more striking by night as floodlights heighten an effect of bush living with eucalypts visually coming indoors. Kangaroos hop into the peripheral lighting to feed, contributing to the overall tranquility.

At the request of the owners, Kevin and Linda Roney, the home is a reverse brick veneer with mini-corrugated metal cladding to external walls. It is raised on steel poles in concrete footings which gives the impression that the home is floating over the natural contours.

Garry Baverstock, of Ecotect-Architects, met the owners' brief with offset pavilions, one to the north capitalising on a wrap-around sun deck for winter comfort. A breezeway between the two ties in a second, elevated deck for comfort in summer.

These pavilions have

effective zoning, with the kitchen and living space integrating the sun deck in one and a study, a library and sleeping areas in the other.

The retro-1950s touch is there with a jaunty, cantilevered roof to the north pavilion, where it soars up at an angle of 25 degrees over the sun deck. This has been calculated to allow the winter sun to penetrate up to 4m across the living area.

This pavilion, which extends for about 15m is in complete shade in summer. Clerestory windows above french doors contribute to a soft level of natural lighting.

Offsetting the second

pavilion allows the sleeping areas to benefit from passive solar principles.

The architect calculated the total energy cost savings to be in the order of more than 60 per cent.

External colours are off-white with a steel-grey trim to openings. Cadet blue gives a bookend look to the main pavilion.

Shadow joints to the raked ceiling give the impression of it floating clear for its full 15m length.

In the kitchen, banks of drawers are highlighted in lacquered blue. Bench cupboards extend for about 8m and there is a pantry plus a matching, tall slide-out unit

with wire racks. The integrated sun deck is 2.4m wide and ideal for alfresco living. It extends to a 5m wide segment with a solar veranda which is like an outdoor room.

The sleeping pavilion has a study, a library and the main suite with a bathroom and his-and-her robes.

A utility space doubles as a mud room for those coming indoors after working on the site.

■ **The home is not open for inspection but details can be discussed with Mr Baverstock on 9386 3888.**

FRANK PLATELL

