

Living, naturally

ECOLOGICALLY minded owners have a passive solar home at Brigadoon that, visually, seems to float out over the natural contours.

They wanted it to cause a minimum of intrusion on their heavily-wooded, 1.8ha bush block, and succeeded in keeping every tree.

It looks great by day and is even more striking at night as floodlights heighten the effects of bush living.

Architect Garry Baverstock will discuss the concept at Friday's seminar on sustainable housing moving to mainstream, being held at the Alexander Library Building (phone 02 9241 2955 for information and bookings).

At the owners' request, the house is reverse brick veneer, with mini-corrugated metal cladding to external walls, and is raised on steel poles in concrete footings.

It has two offset pavilions, one to the north capitalising on a wraparound sun deck for winter comfort. A breezeway between the two ties in a second elevated deck for comfort in summer.

These pavilions have been exploited for effective zoning, with the kitchen and living space integrating the winter sun deck in one, and a study, a library and sleeping areas in the other.

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This has been calculated to allow the winter sun to penetrate up to 4m across the living areas.

In the summer this pavilion is in complete shade with that roof. Then clerestory windows above french doors help lend a soft level of natural light to a living space extending for about 15m.

Offsetting the second pavilion allows the sleeping areas to benefit from passive solar principles. The architect has calculated the total energy savings in the home to be more than 60 per cent.

FRANK PLATELL

