

INSIDER'S VIEW

Frank Platell



MENTION Fallingwater and most dedicated environmentalists will think of Frank Lloyd Wright's masterpiece of about 80 years ago.

Wright was a pioneer in solar housing and it is no surprise that architect Garry Baverstock, a local doyen in energy-efficient and environmental homes, sees him as an icon.

Asked to nominate his favourite local house, Garry put forward a design of his own future Cottesloe home, which is based very much on the principles of Fallingwater.

The site does not have a stream to build over,

as did Fallingwater. But it will have a simulated stream emanating from the foundations and flowing under a deck before cascading over an artificial waterfall to a 10m-wide reflection pool.

Garry's design relates to the five elements in a modern concept that exploits earthy materials. It will be self-contained, with an aged dependent's strata dwelling attached.

Both will run off a Voltair electrical system, with surplus power being sold to the grid, and have a combined, gas-boosted, solar hot-water unit.

The home will be built of rammed limestone and recycled power poles. These will be used as

structural columns and as main beams spanning up to 8m. Random limestone blocks will be used for studio walls and to screen private courts.

Cantilevered decks and hoods in the Frank Lloyd Wright style will have a solar purpose while creating lightness and an organic effect. Western windows taking in panoramic ocean views will be protected by the hoods, one of which will be cantilevered out about 4m.

Garry sees the home, under construction, as a current revival of the master's vision, now being revitalised by many talented young architects.