

HOME FRONT



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NEW HOMES EDITOR

Down to earth

From bush-buffered Hills homes to sand-swept coastal dwellings — WA's varying landscape necessitates a diverse range of architectural styles.

Today, we celebrate that diversity starting with Natasha Granath's cover story (opposite page) on a Floreat home inspired by classic Californian bungalow lines.

Frank Platell goes bush to track down some passive-solar design tips from Garry Baverstock on page 34, then continues on to the coast to find a Hillarys home that's shipshape on page 32.

This week, we've included 13 HIA entrants, which may prove lucky for some!

So grab a coffee, flip through the pages and take the opportunity to gain some great building advice, gardening ideas and interior design tips.

ENCORE!
Garry Baverstock fans commissioned the "maestro" of passive-solar design for a repeat performance. P34



Command performance

The owners wanted a home with ordinary space but extraordinary looks.

"Same again, Garry, but with some subtle changes for a new site in the Hills plus our changing lifestyle."

Such was the endorsement of clients for architect Garry Baverstock's passive-solar and environmentally friendly concept.

The retired school teacher owners had found that his concept had worked beyond expectations, giving year-round comfort and significant savings in energy and water.

Their original home also had merged visually with its bush environment.

Their latest home is even more exciting, looking like a pastoralist's rambling homestead.

Complemented by dappled sunlight from carefully retained gum trees, its harmony with the bush is complete with a light green corrugated roof and limestone-look walls.

There are limestone retaining walls to terraced front gardens where low native shrubs flower profusely, as planned, in the heat of summer.

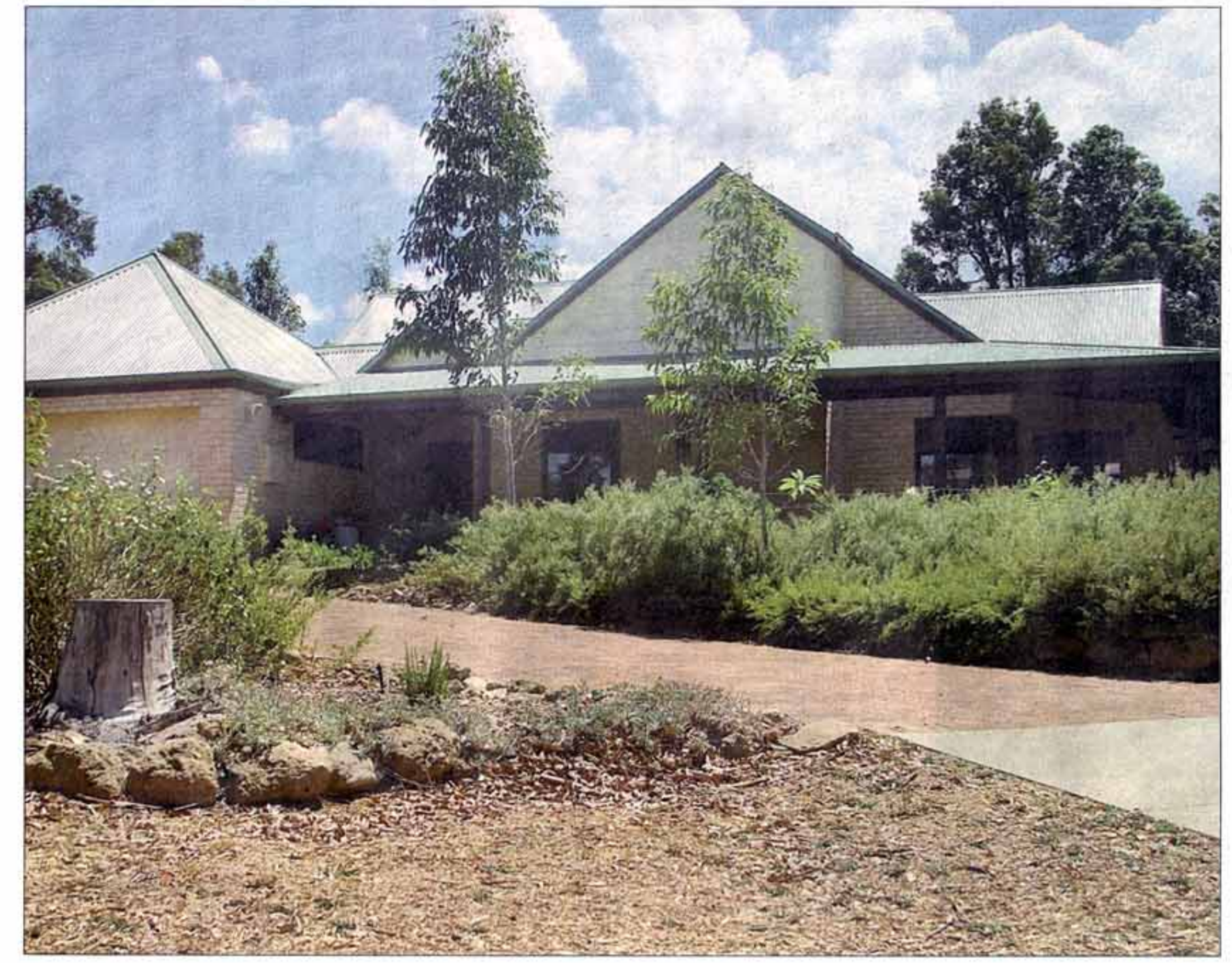
The way the roof of the residence has been broken up and steps up the hillside suggests a group of homes.

It has traditional enough spaces but all incorporate private courts or landscaped gardens or integrate wide veranda spaces which allow for eating outdoors in comfort all year round.

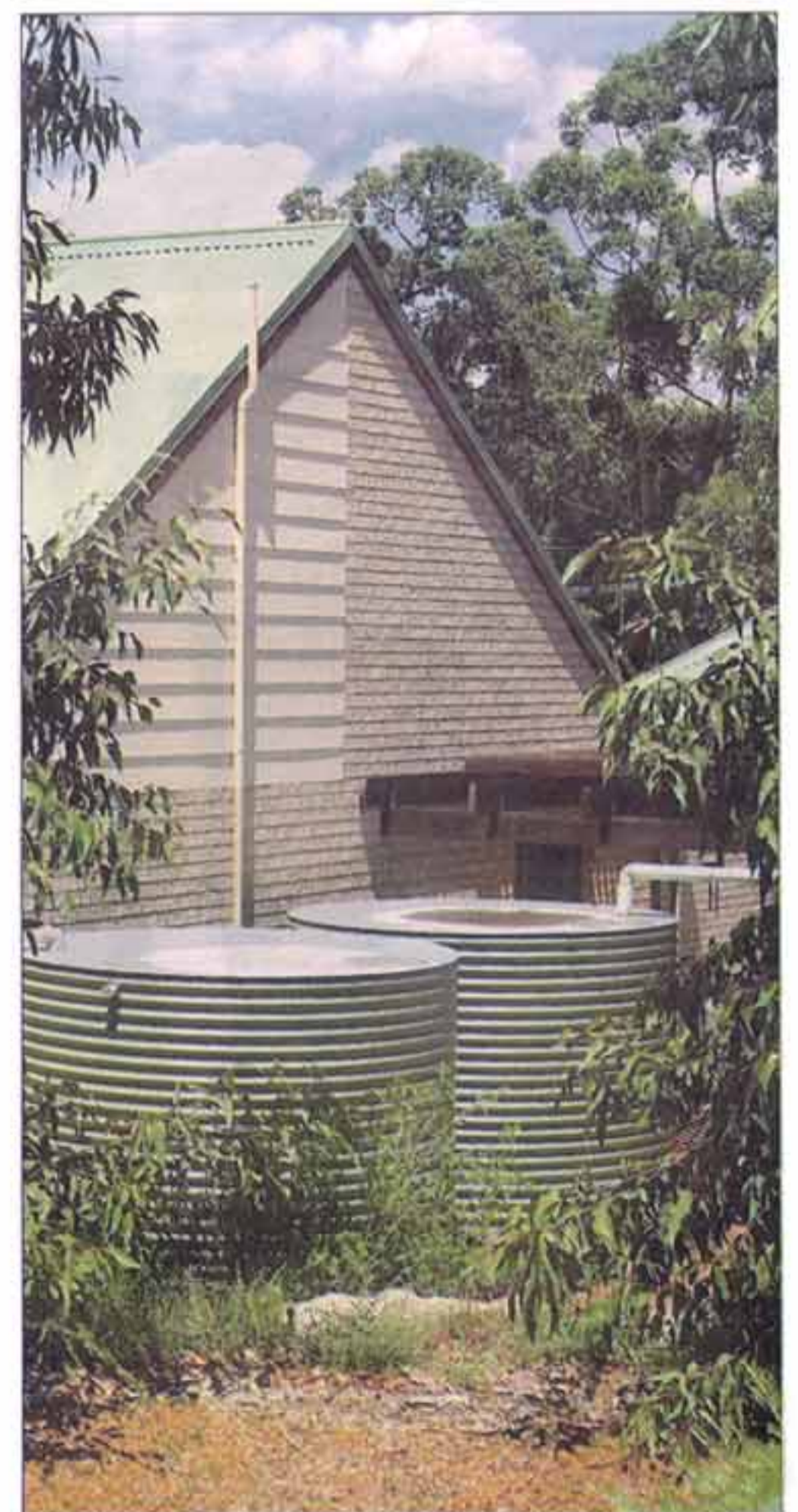
The site was 45deg. off true north but there was sufficient space for the home to be angled north to exploit the full passive-solar benefits.

Enough space remains for a family compound of the future with at least one more dwelling to share resources.

The owners had requested a home



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Gum trees were carefully retained when the house was built.

with ordinary spaces but not with ordinary looks and it had to exploit natural contours by stepping up the hillside, the split-level allowing it to stay on the ground.

A wide veranda links with the separate studio on an upper level.

A rustic feeling indoors adds to the tranquillity of the main spaces.

The main living zone is overlooked from the kitchen, a compact work space with everything only a step or two away.

In the interests of energy efficiency, the appliances are the latest available and the lights are low-voltage halogens.

Every window is worth looking out of — be it on wide verandas for alfresco living at its best, to one of the landscaped courts or across a steep, wooded valley. Lots of nooks and crannies add to the visual interest.

The main entry is across a 2.5m-wide veranda into a gallery-like foyer.

The double garage adjoins and its entry indoors is into a multi-use space that doubles as a mud room (for

cleaning up before going into formal or family living spaces).

On the northern elevation are louvred pergolas that maximise solar collection in winter, sunlight penetrating up to 3m into the main spaces. But the same louvres keep the house in solid shade well into autumn.

Bedrooms are on the upper level, all big spaces and with related bathrooms. One has obvious potential as a self-contained flat in the future.

Water tanks collect the rain run-off on the upper level and the contents are gravity fed to the low-maintenance bush gardens.

With the homestead elevated on the hillside, this bush garden of carefully positioned flowering shrubs contributes significantly to overall privacy.

The home is not open for inspection but details can be discussed with architect Garry Baverstock on 9386 3888.



Flowering shrubs are positioned for overall privacy.