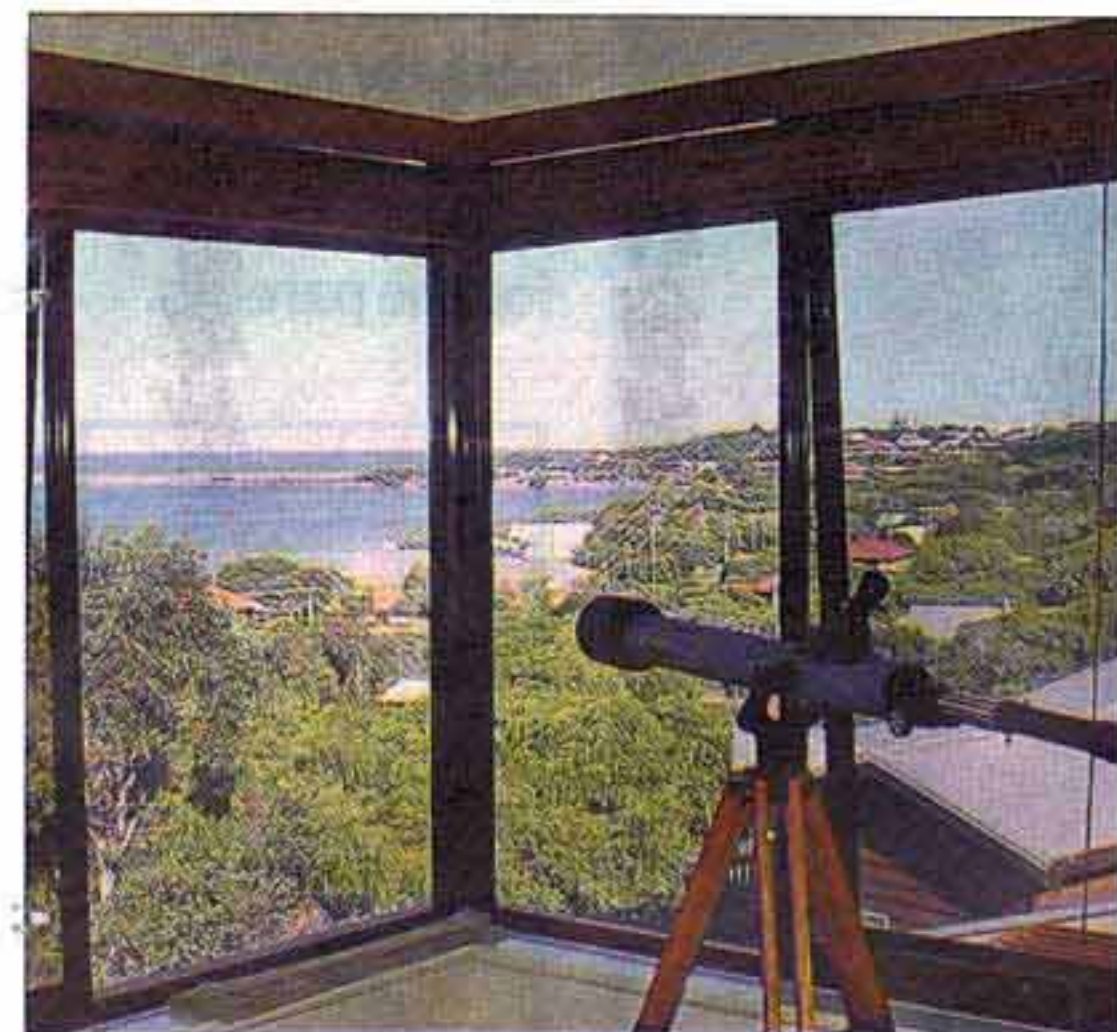


Dreams do come true

Vision of a home with panoramic views realised after 25 years.



At the top of the home, a telescope is used to pick up the migratory whales.



Peter and Doreen could see the potential for their dream home on a hillside of the Blackwood River at Augusta.

There was a panoramic outlook over the whole of the estuary, upstream to Molloy Island, to hinterland across the water and also out over sand dunes to the Southern Ocean.

There was an auction on site about 25 years ago but no bidders turned up. So they made an offer that was accepted and a quarter of a century on their dream has come true.

Their home reflects their passion for the great outlook, for organic architecture pioneered by Frank Lloyd Wright and also for exploiting passive-solar benefits for year-round living comfort.

The couple were well read on science and architecture, being prominent librarians, hence the clear brief to architect Garry Baverstock. The emphasis was to be on quality and not quantity of space and for the

home to respond to the local environment, to look as though it belonged there.

"We have designed a home that is relevant for the 21st century but at the same time acknowledging that Augusta is our third oldest settlement dating back to 1830," Garry said.

"It steps up the hillside making a play on limestone-coloured render downstairs, rising to a brick veneer upstairs with its cedar panelling, plus louvred window walls for cross-ventilation in summer. The concept maximises a 270deg outlook from all levels."

The view is best enjoyed from a curved, cantilevered balcony extending for about 13m and well protected from a sun-control, louvred pergola. Now the occupants bask in full sunlight, which penetrates indoors up to 3m but in summer it is in cool, solid shade.

The passive-solar details take in the benign climate of Augusta, compared with Perth, with its cooler

summer and warmer winter nights, but less solar radiation. This called for a green house, which doubles as a sun room to ensure the comfort zone for winter.

The level of natural light inside is quite dramatic with the solar-shade skylights to the northern roof planes. These skylights contribute to the solar radiation, ensuring that the temperature does not drop below 18C in winter nor rise above 26C in summer.

The three levels have been exploited for efficient zoning as the house steps up the hill, while maintaining a level of privacy from the roadway. The lowest level has a double garage, workshop and store.

On the main level are all the living spaces, integrated with that balcony, also the main bedroom, study, guests' accommodation, two bathrooms, plus the solarium which doubles as a mud room for those coming indoors from the gardens.

The kitchen is here but with a



Louvred window walls provide cross-ventilation in summer and maximises the outlook.

measure of privacy and not in the open planning. The compact work area has proved ideal for two people, using an island bench to minimise the amount of walking.

It is well finished and includes the latest appliances.

The island bench has the breakfast bar, where owners can watch the native birds in their gardens on the sunny, eastern side of the home.

The main bedroom has been likened to a five-star retreat in a resort hotel. The big bedroom window takes in the panoramic view.

At the top of the residence is a multi-purpose room that doubles as a library. A telescope is used to pick up the migratory whales.

Garry found the project to be of great interest, meeting the needs of like-minded people with a deep respect for the environment and a profound view of the community.

The home is not open for inspection but can be discussed with him, on 9386 3888.

