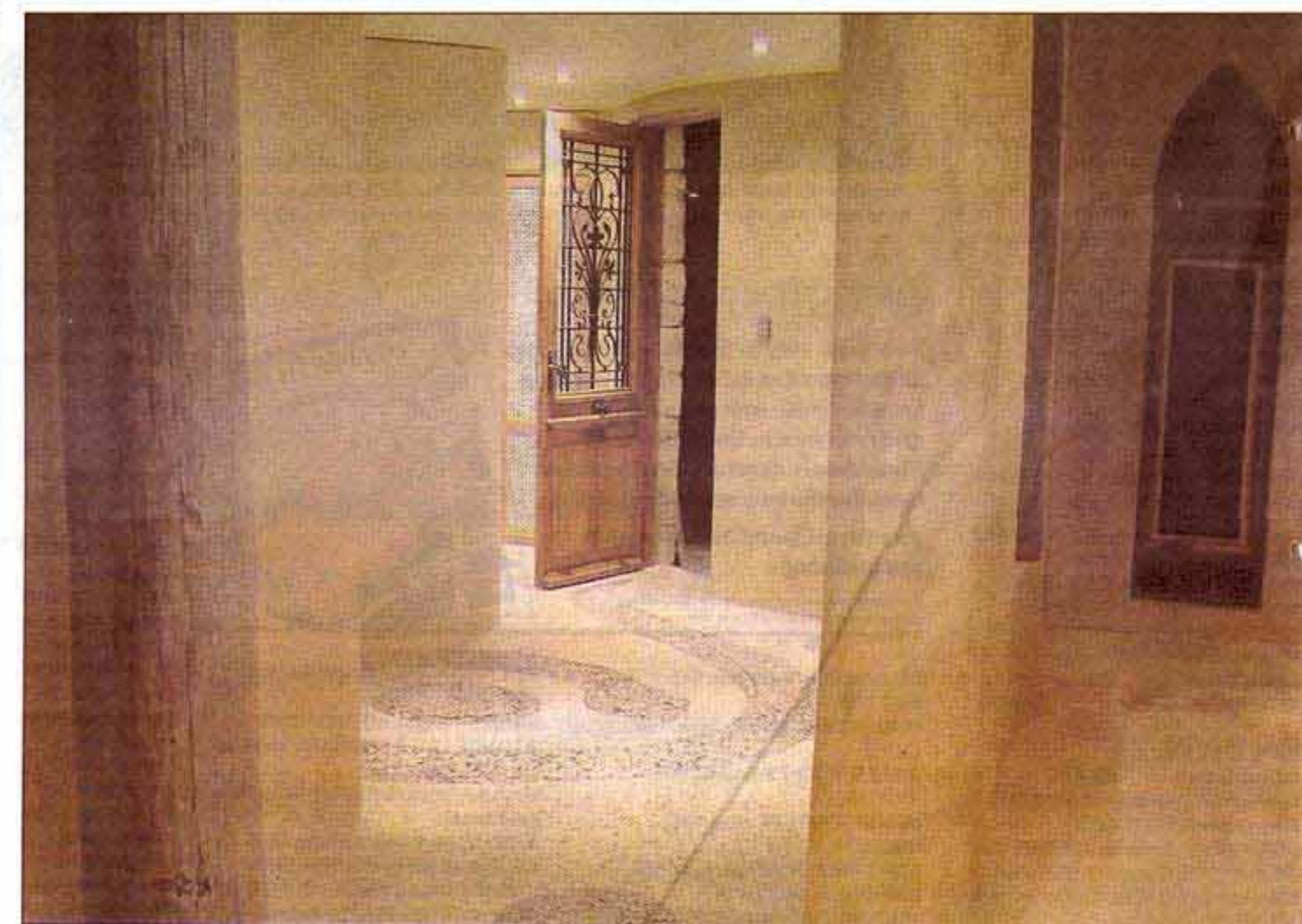
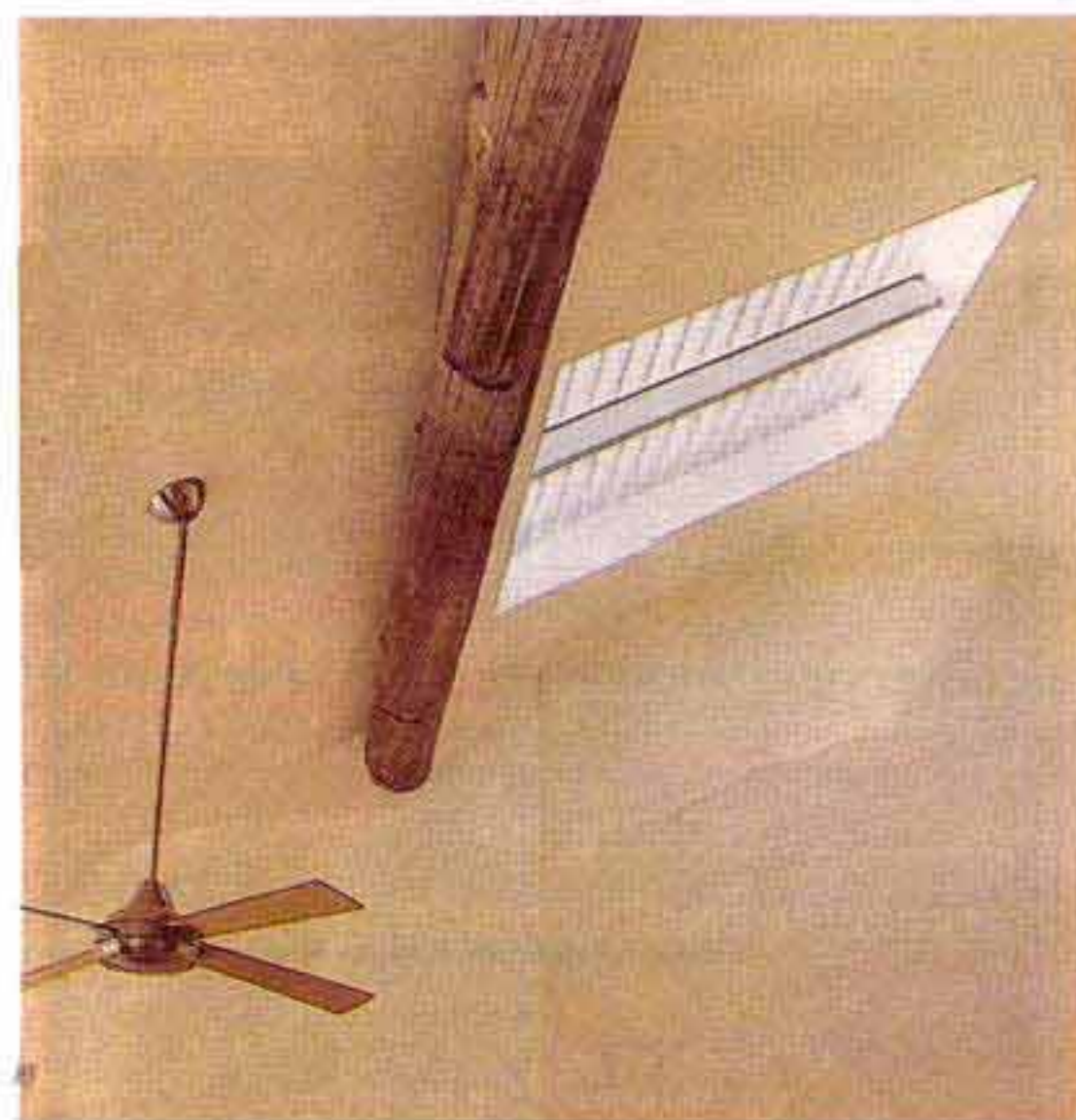


Pictures: Julia Hayes



Labour of love



The work of architect Frank Lloyd Wright influenced this two-storey Cottesloe home, reports Frank Platell

It is hard to imagine much greater love than an architect's joy in building for his partner the home of her dreams.

For Garry Baverstock and his soul-mate, Julia Hayes, the project reflects their joint passion for preserving the environment — which is how they first met.

They also are both admirers of the great 20th-century architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

His work in bringing back form to function influenced the planning of their two-storey residence in Congdon Street, Cottesloe.

"It is joyful to see how happy Julia is, staying at home all the time now, even to working in her office which has a sea view," Garry said as he opened the security gate to the two-in-one development.

Julia's parents have their own complementary accommodation attached to the back, part of a small cluster of buildings in the "eco-compound".

There is no denying the influence of Wright's masterwork Falling Water in the bold horizontal lines to the street elevation and the cantilevered hood to the cedar, balustraded deck.

The composite construction using natural materials that can be recycled contributes to an organic visual effect, even without the small waterfall gurgling into a reflection pool for fish and frogs.

The home not only exploits passive-solar principles to save energy but the materials used in construction have low embodied energy. Combined with the use of photovoltaic panels for power, it is as

Cottesloe residence

Building of the Year; Energy Efficiency

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carbon neutral as possible. It also includes environmentally sensitive water treatment to common and private landscaped courtyards (there are no thirsty lawns).

Stonework integrates the various elements of the facade, including local capstone and granite from the Darling Range.

Craftsmanship is reflected in the tall chimney of random rocks visually free of mortar but bonded from behind.

The front door from provincial France has a window behind a wrought-iron grille that can be opened, along with Gothic-style windows for cross-ventilation in summer.

Despite 36C heat on the day of our visit, it was comfortable indoors with just two ceiling fans turning slowly, one upstairs and one down.

In the terrazzo floor of the foyer is a contribution from the Injibardni people of the Pilbara said to give the owners good fortune — a mythical serpent that visually sweeps in through the front door and represents a mother guarding her eggs.

There is a free-form lift well in the centre for when the owners get old and this influenced the sculptured

look of the main indoor spaces.

Integrated landscaped courtyards all around, one with local bush plants, contribute to a bright, tranquil ambience indoors.

The main living and dining area is about 8m x 7m and features bush poles as exposed beams to the 3.2m-high ceiling. But the focal point is a fireplace — unlikely ever to be used — in a bold, bottle-like free-form design suggesting a fusion of Mexican and medieval styles.

A wide bay window not only integrates the front balcony but has

panels arranged for efficient solar and cross-ventilation benefits that ensure year-round comfort.

Overlooking it all is a well-appointed "country" kitchen with extensive bench and wall cupboards in ash, which has a clear finish.

An adjoining multipurpose room can be a TV zone, library or gym.

Sleeping areas and the retreat with a home office upstairs are in a grand scale. There is a cathedral ceiling with recycled log beams sweeping up to an apex at 5m.

Gothic doorways open to the

7m x 6m main bedroom where bay windows take in the ocean views, without sleepers having to lift their head off the pillows.

Walls of built-in robes extend for about 12m and there is an illuminated niche above the bedhead for books.

Julia has an ensuite to her own design, which includes a bath, and there is a second bathroom on this level for guests.

The house is not open for inspection but you can take a virtual tour on the website at: www.eco-development.com/ecocompound.

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