



GLASS walls have been used extensively inside the solar home and the roof, skylight and rear pergola have been designed to make the most of winter sun

Sunny way to save money

By GAEL GOERKE

SOLAR ideas for everyone are featured in a light-filled open-plan display home in Le Souef Drive, Kardinya.

Bristile's Bob Ford conceived the idea of a solar display home some years ago, planning it as show-place for the latest products from Bristile and sister company Whittakers.

But it was not until architect Garry Bavistock entered the scene that the solar display home took shape.

Barry is one of 10 WA architects who specialise in designing solar homes for a market that has expanded to 60 a year.

The 200sqm Bristile/Whittakers Solar Energy Ideas Display Home is open between 12.30 and 5pm from Wednesday to Sunday.

Its aim is to encourage project home builders to incorporate at least one solar design plan in their range.

Facing south

The Le Souef Drive block was chosen for its north/south elevation, with the front facing south.

The wide carport and recessed south-facing windows act as a trap for south-west summer breezes and channel them into the home.

Cool, cream-coloured Chelsea brick used on the home's exterior is the latest release from Metro Brick.

Glass bricks, rather than windows, have been used wherever possible on the west and east-facing elevations.

"The home as displayed has 52 per cent glazing, which halves heating costs," says Barry.

Floor paving

Floor paving, which can be brick, stone or any other heat-absorbing material, is designed in north-facing rooms to soak up warmth during the day and to release it slowly at night.

The high, north-facing skylight is aimed at reducing the use of electric lights.

A huge garden sunroom at the rear of the home has a ceiling and rear wall of glass while weather-resistant red cedar pergola blades are angled to let in sun during winter but not in summer.

The home also contains the first gas-boosted solar hot water system to be released in WA.