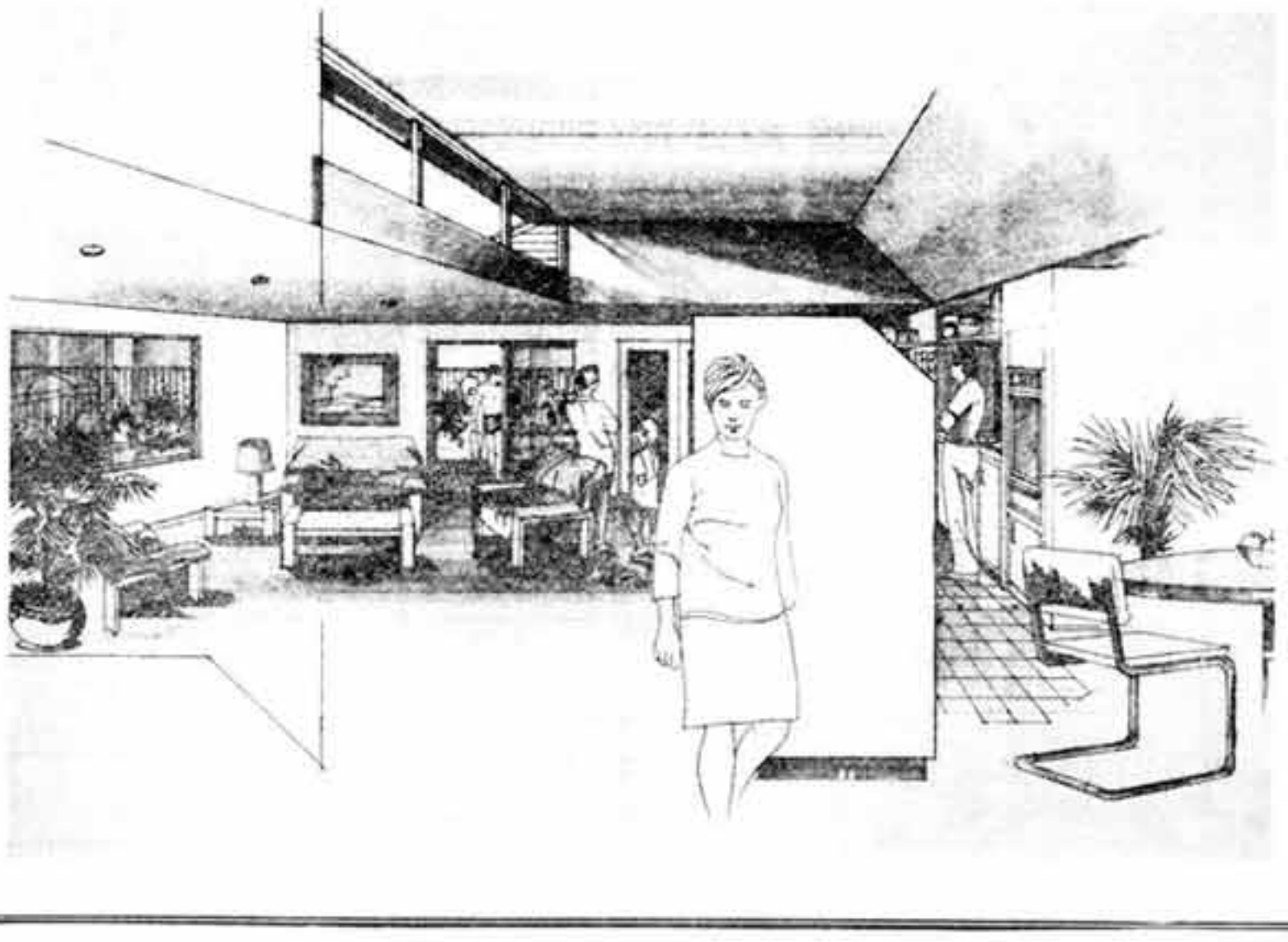
The West Australian

NEW HOMES

Compiled by Steve Hill SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28 1987



Clerestory windows to this passive solar designed home allow the sun to stream into the central kitchen and breakfast area in the middle of winter, but allow only a subdued level of natural light in summer. The concept, which allows for comfortable living year round, is on display at *The West Australian* Home Show opening today at the Claremont Showground.

Flexibility and comfort merge

NEW HOMES

An artist's impression of the low-energy, passive solar concept developed by the Solar Design Centre. A model of the design will be on display at the 1987 Home Show.

Angled blocks no barrier to passive solar principles

By FRANK PLATELL

THE Solar Design Centre has combined with a home builder to produce a low-energy, passive concept that will fit on almost any block.

The original model is shown with a street elevation facing south, allowing for outdoor living areas to be developed to the north.

But it can easily be adapted to a block that faces east, west or north, and still have the year-round comfort indoors. Staggered side elevations give it the necessary flexibility to go on angled blocks.

And it has been designed to come on at up-market project prices.

"It is not for mass production, but to put passive solar designs within the reach of more people," explained architect Gary Baverstock, principal of the centre.

"We are displaying it at *The West Australian* Home Show 1987, in model and drawing forms, to attract as wide an audience as possible.

"People will be able to quickly grasp how they can have a practical, comfortable home conforming with good solar design principles and at virtually no extra cost.

"It has a top solar rating with insulation in the wall cavities as well as in the ceiling. The indoor temperature will rarely drop below 19C in winter, or rise above 28C in summer.

"It would require a prolonged heat wave, or a long cold snap, to get as much as a 2C variation to these. Comfortable living does not require space heating or cooling."

The house is a neat, post-modern design in traditional materials, essential for economies with construction. The clerestory windows to the north is a variation, ensuring a high level of natural light to the centre of the house at all times, even direct sunlight in the middle of winter.

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Comfort the main design factor

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The roof is a traditional shape, except for the step in front of the clerestory windows. This roof is metal but tiles can work equally as well — it is the insulation that provides the comfort in Perth.

The house which can be built, according to Graham Moody, for $70,497 is the equivalent of a five-bedroom concept. Two of these rooms show their versatility on plan, being nominated as a common room and a study.

It has a lounge, separate dining room, master suite and study directly off the tiled entry foyer. The big country kitchen has a walk-in pantry, breakfast area and office desk one end.

Related to this is a big family room and adjacent common room, with optional patio-pergola just a step outside. Children have their own sleeping zone, and their own entry off the courtyard, via the kitchen.

The double garage is separate at the front and can go anywhere to suit the site, even attached to the house. It is one of the few options at $7962.

The house is to a high standard with a double spa in the open-planned en suite, only the toilet having a door.

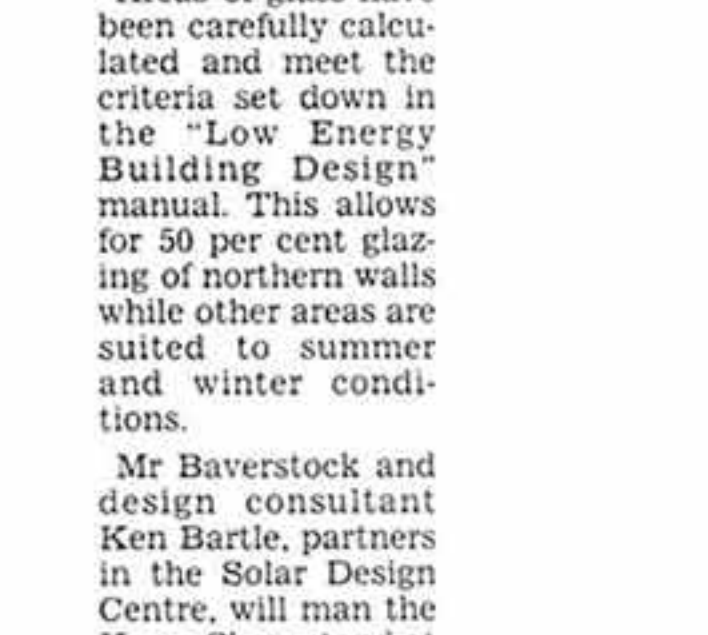
Kitchen

There are microwave and wall ovens in the kitchen and a recess with connections for a dishwasher. The work area has been centrally placed to relate to all living areas, indoor and out, and to have good sight lines to any swimming pool.

Staggered side elevations have been primarily designed to create traps for the south-west breezes, so that the whole house can be cross-ventilated and cooled of a summer's evening.

Areas of glass have been carefully calculated and meet the criteria set down in the "Low Energy Building Design" manual. This allows for 50 per cent glazing of northern walls while other areas are suited to summer and winter conditions.

Mr Baverstock and design consultant Ken Bartle, partners in the Solar Design Centre, will man the Home Show stand at busy times, with help from Mr Moody. Pamphlets will be available for those genuinely interested in the passive solar concept.



The floor plan of the Solar Design Centre's concept.