

## NEW HOMES

ENJOYING ALL THE SEASONS  
SOLAR STYLE

By FRANK PLATELL

TWO distinctive, architectural concepts in Ardross conform with traditional building practices, and are in harmony with older neighbours.

But they are unique in their neighbourhood in that they need virtually no space heating, nor air conditioning, for year-round living comfort.

They are the latest creations from the Solar Design Centre and are identifiable by the clerestory windows at the roof ridge and by their carefully-calculated pergola screens.

They have been designed so that the sun is now starting to penetrate indoors, as Perth goes into its autumn. At this stage the light is in small strips as the sun drops in the northern sky.

But by June 22, the shortest day of the year, the living areas will be bathed in

sunlight, and this will persist right through the winter. Even in July, our bleakest wet month, we average five hours of sunshine a day.

The heat that comes through north-facing windows at that time of the year is absorbed by walls and floors, to be radiated back into living spaces at night.

"Because passive solar concepts of this size are not as efficient as the big homes, it may need some heating during a freezing spell," said the architect, Mr Garry Baverstock.

"We calculate that the indoor temperature will not drop below 17C during the worst of winter, nor rise above 24C in a heat-wave. In winter it should average about 20C, rising to

24C in summer, a small variation considering our extremes of climate.

"We estimate energy savings to be in the order of 50 per cent with this home, as against 80 per cent for a big passive-solar home."

The original idea for the site at the corner of Coogee and Bedford Roads was for a duplex development. But it was found that the site could have separate green titles, each home getting about 500sq m, or enough for patios and pool.

The two offer a choice of three or four bedrooms, two bathrooms and formal and family living areas. Each is integrated with patios front and rear.

The three-bedroom design with terracotta-tile roof is priced at \$123,500, while the second with doeskin-coloured corrugated roof is \$129,500. Each has been designed for maximum privacy, a level higher than achieved on most urban lots.

The home fronting Coogee Road has a brick gateway with gable top and this identifies the main entry. Nearby is the pergola with louvres at a special angle and spacing for winter warmth, while giving 80 per cent shade in summer.

The hall has a small window to the west, raised to the eaves line to keep out the afternoon heat. But the sill height still

allows a glimpse to a court overlooked from the main bedroom.

Corner windows have been exploited to increase the space effect indoors. Landscaping includes shrubs to protect any glass facing west.

Lounge and dining areas are separated by a jarrah-capped dwarf wall, so that each visually borrows space from the other. The related pergola could be converted to a solarium.

The whole family zone and kitchen benefit from the clerestory windows, which spread a soft diffused light over the internal spaces. The sun streams in here in winter.

The kitchen has an angled work area with about 4.5m of bench cupboards and a corner pantry. Gas is used for cooking, hotwater and for any boost to space heating.

Solar hotwater, although attractive, did not equate with a house of this size, at this present time, explained Mr Baverstock.

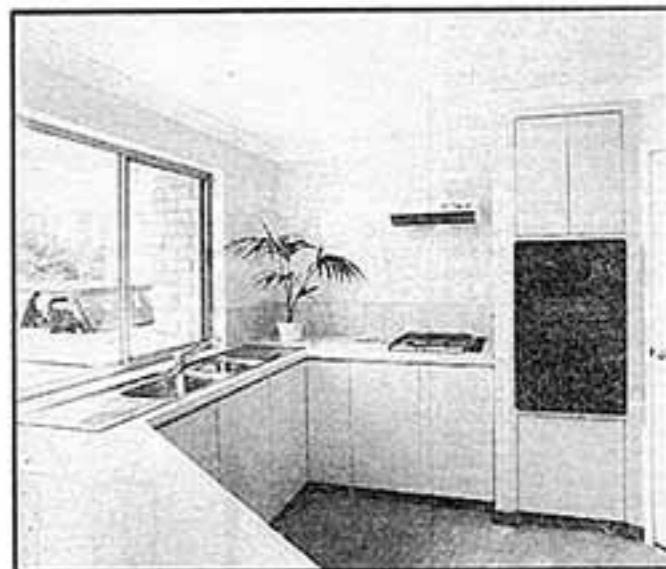
The master suite has a walk-in wardrobe and separate en suite. Children have two bedrooms, both with built-in wardrobes, and a bathroom in their sleeping zone.

Ceilings are insulated and gardens and lawns are reticulated. A store at the rear of the double carport is big enough to be a workshop.

Peter Gregory, property consultant, will have the homes open from this weekend.



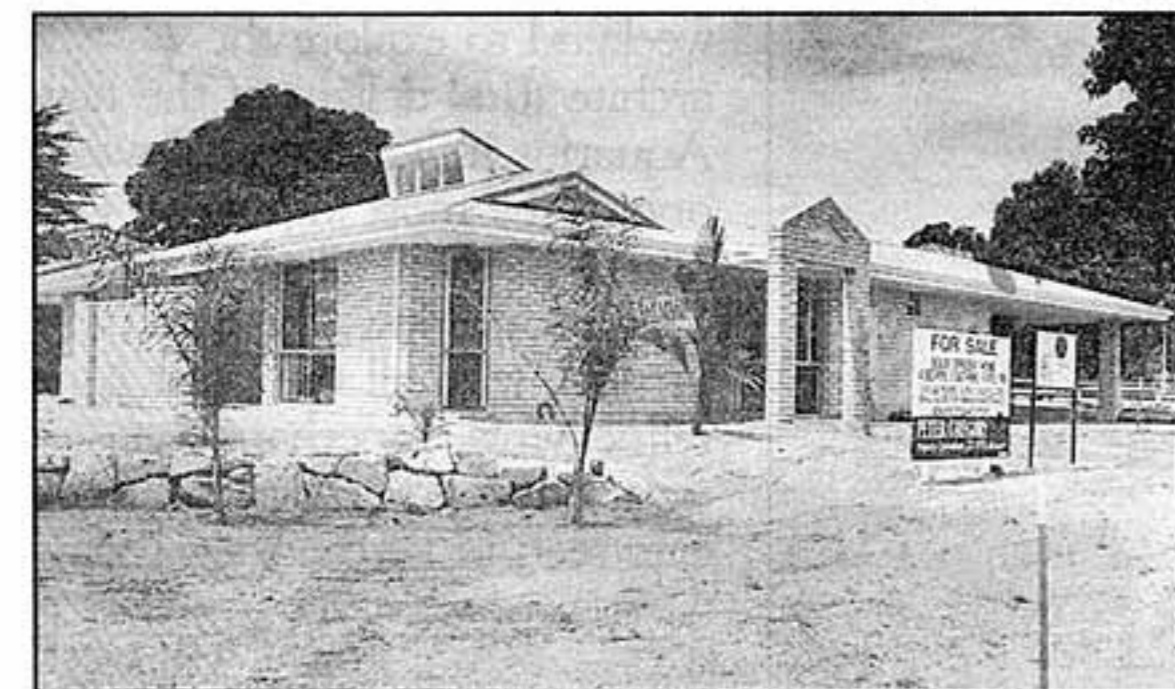
A brick gateway with gable top provides a dramatic entry.



The well-equipped kitchen has a pleasant outlook.



North facing windows in the solar home will enable winter



Clerestory windows at the roof ridge create an interesting concept at the Ardross home.