

# Energy Efficient Houses

## Sun-bathing home easy on the eye



□ This passive solar design home was built in Bayswater on a modest budget.

A PASSIVE solar home design would have to be expensive, and is sure to look different, wouldn't you say?

Wrong. It can look just like any other home in the street, and can be very low cost to build.

If you doubt this,

you will have the opportunity on October 6 to view a three-bedroom home at 4 Avenell Rd, Bayswater (near the corner of Winifred St), that was built last year for about \$65,000, and conforms to all the requirements of using the materials and orientation to get the best thermal values of winter

warmth and summer coolness.

Designed by architect Garry Baverstock, the house utilises a north-facing solarium to collect and store heat from winter sun, eaves designed to exclude summer sun but take advantage of the lower rays of sun in

winter, and windows correctly positioned so that the right amount of glass is present to let in light without transferring unnecessary heat.

If you want to know more about solar and energy efficient housing, there is a one-day course for home

owners and builders scheduled for Sunday, October 13, at Homemaker City.

Speakers include Garry Baverstock and physicist Dr John Barker of Murdoch University, and Geoff Corrick, who will lead a bus tour of solar homes around Perth.

## Batts best in roofs

NO building can function efficiently if the roof is allowing heat in during summer and out in winter.

For good thermal properties, roof insulation is essential and many types are available.

One of the most used is the glasswool and rockwool, favored because it is easy to install, clean and fire resistant.

Glasswool and rockwool is usually installed as batts laid on the top of the ceiling. Best results rely on the correct material.

## Insulation an answer

SOME people think having an energy efficient home involves a lot of gadgetry.

But anyone can improve the energy efficiency of a dwelling with simple methods.

For example, on hot days, close out the heat by shutting doors and windows, and closing curtains and blinds. When the cooler evening comes, open everything up to let the cool air in.

Always remember that heat travels through glass easily. So make use of outside shades in summer to keep the sun off, and well-fitting drapes in winter that will trap a layer of air between the curtain and the glass. The curtains should not be in contact with the glass, the trapped air is an excellent insulator.

Plant deciduous trees or shrubs where they can cast a shade on the house during the summer, but let the sun through in winter.

Do not buy energy guzzling heaters just because they are cheap. They will cost you dearly in operating them.

## Ugly skylights?

FLYING into Perth recently, Tom Powell was amazed when looking down onto the roof tops how many buildings still have those "ugly looking skylight domes".

It seems, he says, that Perth has not caught up with the new type of skylight that is currently on the market which could make the dome style skylight a thing of the past.

The reasons are that it not only looks more appealing to the eye but an independent test, using a light meter, has shown it can give up to 33 per cent more light than a dome skylight.

With this system there is no possibility of leaks which can happen with other systems, as the tiles are as an exact match of the existing tile and completely sealed in to stop leaks and any other debris getting in. It also has a very attractive ceiling surround.

Why not light up those dark areas now and call Tom Powell on 385 9719. Distance is no problem as they now operate from Mandurah and Two Rocks.