

New Homes



Western red cedar and brick make the house blend with its older neighbours.

Designed to suit block and local area

ONE of the most common dilemmas for an architect when designing a new home in an old suburb is how to justify bulldozing a character home.

There is always a certain onus to replace the old home with something that is worthwhile and in keeping with the streetscape.

Award-winning architect Garry Baverstock has successfully adopted an environmentally-sympathetic approach with a passive solar house in North Fremantle's Hevron Place.

The cul-de-sac is part of a precinct around Harvest Road which is brimming with character — workers' cottages, winding road and lots of old run-down semi-detached houses.

Baverstock's brief was to design a house when the owner decided the 120-year-old weatherboard home on the 350sq m site could not be salvaged because of extensive white ant damage.

NORTH FREMANTLE INDIVIDUAL DESIGN

- Price: on application
- Address: 8 Hevron Place
- Agent: Nirvana Homes, builder phone 474 4673
- Open: today, tomorrow 10am-4pm

The owner, a keen craftsman, wanted to do much of the timber and leadlight work on the new home himself and this was effectively incorporated into the building schedule by Nirvana Homes.

The result, a two-storey, four-bedroom timber and brick home, provides adequate compensation for the bulldozed house and does not look out of place among its Hevron Place neighbours.

It is a light, sunny residence overlooking the expansive greenery of the adjoining parkland.

Baverstock has won five Home of the Year Awards in the Design for Climate category and this year won an energy conservation award in the Royal Australian Institute of Architecture awards.

His latest design measures up handsomely. "At least we have shown some respect for the past by creating a house which visually represents what was there before," said Baverstock.

Further sympathetic treatment included the use of limestone, western red cedar and clay bricks — earthy colours and materials.

A solar hot water system and wool insulation add to its energy efficiency.

Though Baverstock had to work with a narrow north-south-facing block, maximum natural light has been achieved through a louvred glass roof panel which allows the morning sun into the kitchen.

The glass panel sits over the timber stairwell and entrance hall and allows sunlight to stream in and light up the whole back section of the house, allowing the living areas to overlook the park.

The small block size dictated a two-storey design with the master bedroom and guest bedroom upstairs and two bedrooms downstairs facing north.

The master bedroom features a large en suite, exposed beams, walk-in robe and balcony.

The en suite is also accessible from the hallway.

Downstairs the open-plan living area is finished in terracotta with timber french doors opening out to the back yard area.

Off the living room is the kitchen, a big U-shape area with formica bench-tops, a wall oven and a wide expanse of windows overlooking the park.

The second bathroom with tiled shower recess and separate toilet also contains the laundry facilities, opening on to the side garden area of the house.

A Colorbond roof and carport complete the home which is not for sale but is open for inspection today and tomorrow between 10am and 4pm.

Those interested in solar designs will find the concept most appealing.

Gail Williams



A glass-panel in the ceiling allows natural light to stream into the back section of the house.



The front doors and windows on the ground floor are well screened from the sun.