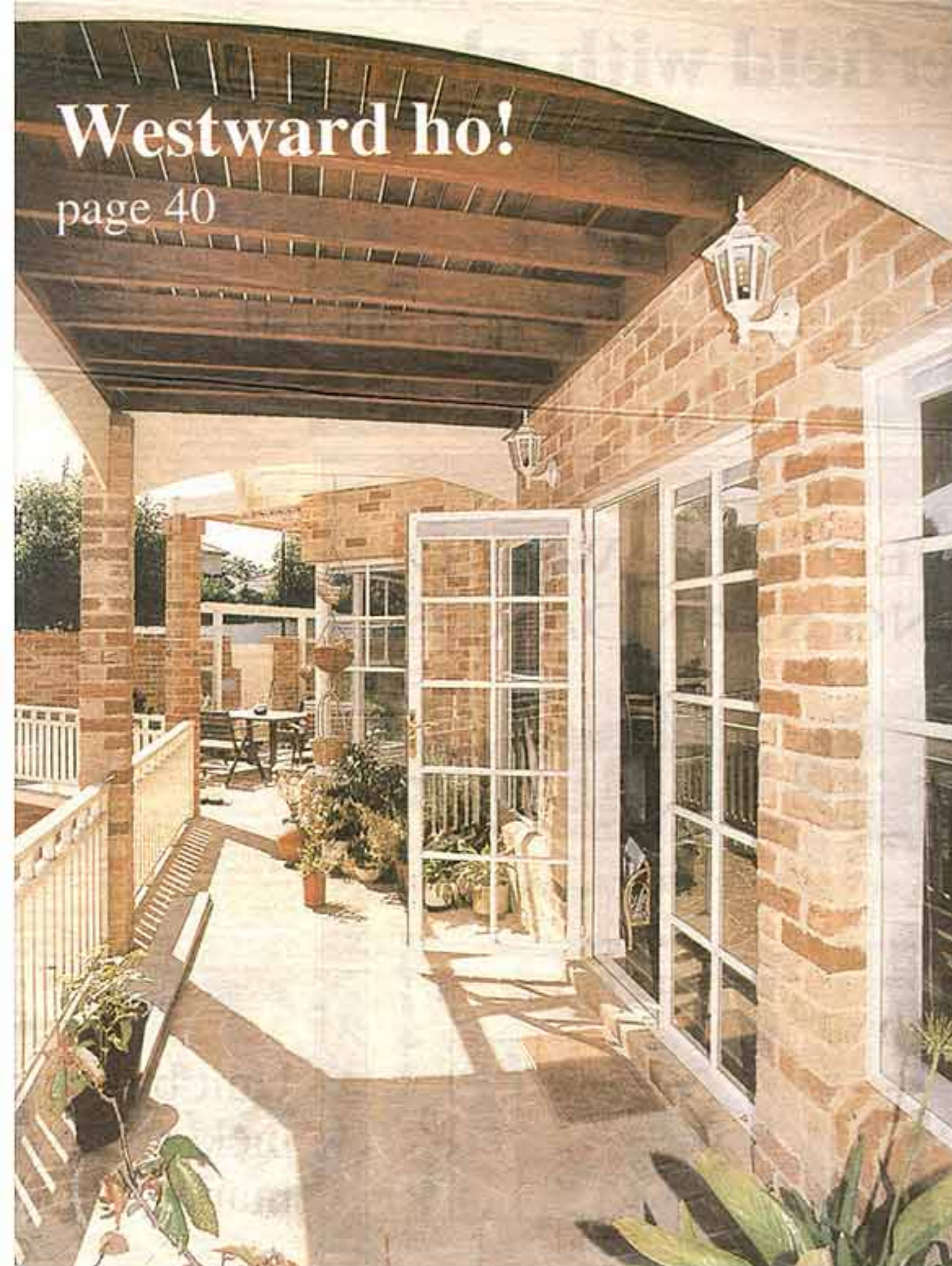


# Westward ho!

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## How to make light of the west



◆ The kitchen and casual meals area overlook the big barbecue deck outside.



◆ The dining room has a bay window effect to the main back deck.

### On Display

#### Applecross

- ◆ **Price:** contact architects
- ◆ **Address:** contact architects
- ◆ **Agent:** Baverstock Murphy and Associates, architects  
Phone 474 2770
- ◆ **Open:** contact architects

**H**OW do you exploit a magnificent westerly view of the river and resolve the resultant sun problem in an efficient passive solar concept? With great difficulty it seems because of the great heat load and glare with the long hours of the afternoon sun in summer.

But it can be done, as demonstrated with an imaginative two-storey residence with undercroft, exploiting natural contours of a hillside block in Applecross.

It was a case of calculating the appropriate overhang and taking advantage of landscaping to solve some of the problems while still making the most of the view over Melville Water.

And it has been achieved with minimal reduction in the overall efficiency of the best passive solar concepts. The cost savings in energy will still be significant to the owners.

"We angled the facade at 45 degrees to exploit the views of Melville Water," said architect Garry Baverstock.

"We have calculated overhangs and added portico and pergolas to adequately shade window walls until at least Easter each year.

"We have added glazing to the north to get the maximum efficiency in winter, when the sun will penetrate up to 3m indoors.

With the memory of summer then dimming, the occupants will appreciate the first of the winter warmth.

"For a successful solar concept it has negligible glazing to the east and west elevations, but there are strategically-placed windows to the south for the cross ventilation with the sea breeze of summer.

The efficient air flow cools the heavyweight materials indoors.

"But these same heavyweight materials such as brick walls and concrete floors soak up the warmth of the winter sun and act as thermal

banks to radiate it back indoors at night. The brief also called for a tight design to allow for a future battleaxe subdivision to the rear of the big block."

The house is only one-room wide in places and has a big kitchen, the axis of the floor, and a barbecue deck at the rear where most of the cooking is done in summer.

It is a home for a family where the children have grown up and left, but still visit with their families. Also, it has been designed for wheelchair access to the main living floor, hence the long ramp up from the street.

This ramp contributes to the federation look along with the earth-colour, rustic masonry, the distinctive gables with lattice panelling, the timber balustrading to decks and balconies and the green corrugated roofing.

A spiral stairway links the undercroft garage with the main expansive living area.

In the kitchen, a wall of cupboards includes double doors to a pantry and in here is a tap for fresh rainwater from a tank that captures the roof run-off.

In the utility room it is only five steps from the washing machine to the clothes lines on a

roofed, private deck at the rear.

Bifold doors open to a dining room that exploits a bay window to the main rear deck.

Another elegant touch is the coffered ceiling which gives enough height for a chandelier over a dining table that can be expanded to seat eight.

There is a guest's suite downstairs, accessible direct off the entry hall.

Main stairs adjoining lead up to a private and cosy sitting room, where the focal point is a fireplace with decorative moulded timber and insert-tile surround.

The study can double as accommodation for the overnight guest with a conversion lounge chair.

The owners have complete privacy with their suite, where windows in the bedroom have been raised so that curtains do not have to be drawn.

The en suite has a step-up, triangular bath for two, separate shower and a private toilet.

The house is not open for inspection but can be seen by appointment with the architect. The builder was Charles Allia.

Frank Platell