



Solar  
flair

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New  
**HOMESETS**  
WEEKLY

cover story

# There's a new dawn

**T**HE style says colonial Shenton Park of the last century but it also embodies advanced environmental thinking for the next century.

The two-storey concept is the latest in passive solar designs but still able to maintain a friendly neighbourly relationship to others in its street.

The pioneers of this State have been accredited with first grasping and applying passive solar benefits to their homes, at least in hot weather extremes. They could only applaud this latest thinking and its year-round comfort with significant savings in energy costs.

It can be seen as a model for ecological and economical site planning, exploiting solar aspects on what most would regard as a diffi-

## SOLAR HOME

**Address:** SHENTON PARK  
**Price:** On application  
**Architect:** Garry Baverstock  
**Phone:** 9474 2770

cult narrow block. The placement of the house also allows for any future strata development, off a right-of-way at the back.

Architect Garry Baverstock, of Baverstock Murphy and Associates, has positioned the

home against the south-side boundary. The setback is to the north side to maximise solar benefits across the roof of a two-storey neighbour.

The new home is bathed in sunlight at an early hour, and for the remainder of the day. The sun's warmth has been allowed to penetrate well indoors in winter but is completely excluded for the hottest four months of the year.

This control of the solar warmth is by specially-angled, louvre panels to the pergolas on the north side. In winter the sunlight penetrates up to 3m indoors on both levels.

The Shenton Park home presents a well-proportioned, single-storey elevation to the street, its earthy tones with a limestone-

coloured render and natural timber giving it immediate harmony with the area while alluding to our mediterranean climate.

While the steeply-pitched, corrugated metal roof pays respect to old neighbours, it also creates space for the loft-like upper floor, thus avoiding a ponderous two-storey look. Also having this loft in the warm tones of cedar weatherboards and matching windows softens the visual impact, while using a renewable resource in the wood.

The exterior hardly prepares a visitor for the play of spaces indoors, where main areas seem to soar up into the loft. Much is made of the steep roof pitch for cathedral ceilings and voids which contribute to the open airy ambience.

The main approach is along a side breezeway to an atrium where the door and side panels feature classical leadlights. The hall is central and relates virtually direct to all the main spaces, formal areas at the front and family at the back.

An innovative touch is the angled central passage leading from the main living area to a sun room on the north-west corner of the home. It is only a 20-degree angle but it creates perspective and relieves the monotony of a conventional passage.

The kitchen is centrally located and is linked directly to indoor and outdoor living areas, the latter handled like an outdoor room. The work station has a conservatory feel, meeting the request of the owner who wanted to work in a garden ambience.

The front areas of the home have a lofty feel with the cathedral ceiling reaching up about 6m at the apex. The lounge area here relates to an open gas-fireplace with coal grate and exploiting convection values.

There are meals areas for formal and family



## awakening

occasions, not forgetting the al fresco lifestyle with the patio.

The loft area has been handled like a mezzanine level indoors and gives the owner a refuge to study while still able to relate to family activities.

The house has been developed to a solar design formula that has evolved over the past 20 years and offers a saving of at least 60 per cent in energy. This translates to a reduction of about 18 per cent in the total greenhouse gases from the residence.

"Just contemplate the savings that would be achieved if all houses followed the concept," mused the architect.



"The right amount of glazing, the thermal mass, roof and wall insulation and provision for cross-ventilation are all ingredients of the desirable solar cake. "There is no mystery about it, just good design." And the owner's reaction: "Just love the place — it is so lovely, light and luscious."

Frank Platell