

Local home wins major award

ALEXANDRA McLAREN

A Garmers Beach home has won two prestigious awards for Queensland's most environmentally friendly design.

Paul Williams and Lynda Hannah, who teamed together with designer Paul Clout, scooped the Environmentally Building Award and Energy Efficient Building Award for Queensland's most sustainable new house as well as the Building Design Association of Queensland (BDAQ) Premier Design Award for Queensland's best house.

Home owner Lynda Hannah said the couple wanted to have a design for their home that is both aesthetically pleasing and energy efficient. "We are both really pleased with the result, especially by winning the sustainability category because that is what we are all about," she said. "The aim for us is to entertain people who come to stay and not realise it is different from any other home."

"Behind the scenes it needs to perform the energy efficient functions, but maintain its operations as a normal house." The environmentally friendly residence, which took three years to complete from the design stage, boasts open spaces throughout its four pavilions, and six underground tanks for recycling, waste and overflow control.

Mr Williams said the home will lead the development he plans for the area. "The home is the first in a proposed small eco-efficient development. The systems we have in place are the prototype for the houses to follow. "We are planning a different style of development with extensive co-environmentally friendly living, and further to develop new world best practice methods," Mr Williams said.

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"The focus will be on improvement to the state of the environment, not only at the site where habitat and re-vegetation programs will augment a nature reserve covenant over 75 per cent of the land, but also by addressing the planetary issues of resource depletion, pollution and climate change.

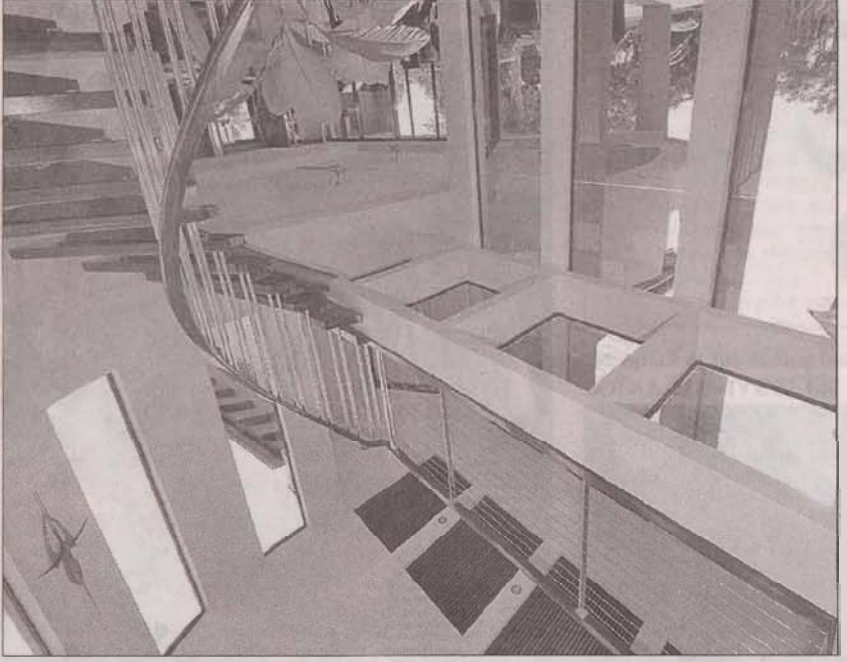
"Our mission is to bring sustainable change. "An object of this house and the planned development around it is to dispel the myth that doing the right thing by the environment means reduction in lifestyle or living in bizarre looking homes. "Lynda and I believe a better lifestyle can be achieved with very little long term impact on the environment if we use these methods. "We simply can no longer afford to compromise our children's future by using vast amounts of fossil fuels to produce low efficiency, dirty environmentally friendly. The small proposed Nermourna Eco-Efficient Development will be environmentally friendly.

power, or to use the atmosphere as waste to someone else's backyard. "The house has been built with the future in focus. "For example, the solar system is designed to fuel a fully electric car when it becomes available in the near future."

"The Garmers Beach house is fully self-sufficient; energy is generated from the roof's solar panels and the strategic positioning of doors and windows capture the morning and afternoon breezes that provide ventilation. The couple is yet to turn on the air-conditioner, and have even solved the mildew problem with hidden heated ducts in the cupboards. Every facet of the home has been constructed with the environment in mind.

"We looked at every single thing everywhere in the house and we worked with nature; the insulation had to be there anyway, so we just decided to suck out the hot air through the ventilation apertures," Mr Williams said. "This house is totally uncompromised and is fully equipped. "We have incorporated some 40 energy efficient design and management features; the house is run entirely by solar power, uses only rainwater harvested on site, recycles its grey water and sewage and is passively cooled by exceptional design features."

OPEN PLAN: The plantation jarrah spiral staircase leads between the two main pavilions of the home. The ventilation panels in the ceiling are one of the energy efficient cooling mechanisms installed in the house.



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