



BEST AUSTRALIAN ARCHITECTURE

EDITED BY GARY TAKLE

Sustainable Country House

This project designed by Sunpower Design won the BDAV Best Environmentally Sustainable Design Award. With a 7-star energy rating, this house is a carefully considered example of environmentally sustainable design.





“Our clients were looking for a refuge from their hectic lives in the city,” said Andreas Sederof of Sunpower Design. “They approached us to design a sustainable, energy efficient country home for them and their two young boys. They wanted it to function as a weekender, with the possibility of becoming their permanent residence in the future.”

“As it was meant to be a refuge for their young family, it had to be low maintenance and have the capacity to accommodate a large extended family and various other visitors.”

The home was designed in three distinct pavilions connected by linkways to provide privacy and some separation from the busy open plan kitchen, dining and living area. The structure is clad in contrasting horizontal and vertical silvertop timber cladding from Radcon with feature timber battens. Large decks have been provided to the main living pod and master bedroom wing with electric winches to enable them to be closed for security protection.

The cladding and decking material has been chosen with utmost respect for the surroundings. Radially sawn Silvertop is left untreated so it can weather and evolve alongside the landscape. The designers’ intent was that the building should feel as if it belongs to the site, and that it be as comfortable in its surroundings as the weathered fence posts or the old windmill. The problem of security was elegantly solved with a clever fold-up deck system that protects the large expanses of glass when the owners are away for extended periods of time. An old windmill on the lake has been restored to pump water up to two old storage tanks, which is then used for irrigation and for fire fighting.

The Judges were unanimous that the project was award-worthy. “The project is a good example of a dwelling which is well designed to respect the environment. The building sits lightly on the land, and is aesthetically pleasing. The construction method, materials selected, orientation of the holiday home

provides a building form with soft impacts on the environment in which it sits,” said the Judging Panel.

The project also won the Best Environmentally Sustainable Design Award. With a 7-star energy rating, this house is a carefully considered example of environmentally sustainable design. “Energy efficient planning and double glazed windows assist in minimising energy consumption, while the use of radially sawn timber cladding is a practical example of minimising materials wastage. The house is independent of mains water supply and has rainwater collection and waste water treatment systems,” said the Judges.

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