

GREENSMART AWARDS 2013



A small pond beneath a low, west-facing window naturally cools the living room.

Maximising space on very small block

■ Lisa Calautti

A nice, tight little residence, quirky but solid at the same time, is how Swell Homes owner Anthony Pillinger sums up this Wembley custom-built home.

“The house has been designed to maximise space on a very small block and has been intentionally kept small according to good environmental principles,” Mr Pillinger said.

The three-bedroom, two-bathroom home has a solar-passive design using a polished concrete slab, and funky lime washed/face brick internal heat-sink walls, he said.

Mechanised windows built into the saw-tooth roof allow for great cross-flow ventilation and quick heat dissipation from the high point of the house

The home has been given a nine-star thermal energy rating.

Northern orientation of living spaces, minimal, low or shaded windows to the west and a small pond beneath a low, west-facing window which naturally cools the living room are among the home’s energy-efficient features.

Other features include LED or low-voltage lighting, 15kW photovoltaic panels and energy-efficient master switches installed to collectively switch off all appliances when not in use.

Water efficiency was catered for via four-star, WELS-rated plumbing fixtures and a Stiebel Eltron heat pump which



creates hot water through the conversion of thermal energy via ambient air temperature.

A 300-litre rainwater tank has been plumbed in and diverted to the bathroom and laundry.

Mr Pillinger said incorporating several new products to work in conjunction with old principles and products presented some challenges.

“The roof in particular was a great opportunity to embrace the new,’ he said.

“The Solarspan roof was one product replacement for traditional timber roof sheeting, insulation, anticon, gyprock lining, and paintwork.”

The cost to build this home was \$296,041.

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Category Custom Built Home

Company Swell Homes

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Location Wembley

