

Country cottage

A charming country retreat, designed to blend in harmoniously with the natural environment



Solar efficiency is the key to this modest home in central Victoria. Trevor Scott, the architect, is concerned with environmentally friendly design, and he has created a house in tune with his ideals.

The owners, a semi-retired couple, wanted a retreat from the city in a house that would fulfil their needs for the rest of their lives. Cost efficiency was of major importance, and as a result the building proceeded in stages as finances permitted.

The style of the house is that of a Victorian country cottage, but along the north facade the solar design features are apparent. The north wall of the studio/living room is fully glazed, as is the conservatory which opens off the bedroom alcove, allowing the winter sun to warm the rooms.

The walls were constructed of double-skin concrete block which has been bagged and painted. The rough



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texture and the pale colour blend well with the landscape, giving the appearance of stone without the cost, and with the added benefit of excellent thermal efficiency.

Energy management has been carefully designed, with two solar collector panels on the roof forming an essential part of the hot water service. The fuel combustion stove in the kitchen also acts to heat the space and boost the hot water service, as well as providing a source of hot water for radiators distributed about the house.

The internal finishes are warm and comfortable, with timber lined ceilings and window frames. An open fire provides a focal point in the living area.

In the kitchen, the bench-top is of Tasmanian huon pine, which was made from reclaimed timber.

It is a small house, but one that satisfies the needs of the owners totally. They have space to pursue their hobbies, with a potting shed and a workshop included in the design, as well as a comfortable and economical lifestyle. The owners can look out over the rolling countryside and rest assured that they have left the city far behind.



Consultants

Architects Trevor Scott
Architects Builder & landscaper David Walters

Products used

Roofing Lysaght Custom Orb Galvanised Corrugated Iron (Natural finish).

Exterior walls Bagged/ painted concrete block; glass; Custom Orb corrugated iron

Interior walls Bagged/painted concrete block; plasterboard

Ceilings Pine lining, stain finish;

plasterboard

Flooring Concrete slab, paving paint finish

Window frames Stained timber: casement & awning sash

Light fittings Second-hand fittings, re-

enamelled by owner; original external fittings used on tennis courts

Garage doors Made by builder from recycled Baltic Pine flooring

Bathroom fittings:

Surfaces Glazed ceramic tiles; Plasterboard, semi-

gloss paint finish

Taps Dorf Easiclean

Kitchen fittings:

Benchtop/Drainer Re-claimed Tasmanian Huon Pine (from sea-bed off Sarah Island, Macquarie Harbour, Tasmania)

Oven/stove Rayburn Deluxe solid fuel combustion stove

Fridge Kelvinator

Sink Porcelain laboratory sink

Taps Donson Easiclean, gooseneck spout

Furnishings Dividing sleeping alcove from living:

Folding free-standing tapestry screen, framed in blackwood with hoop pine veneer backing. Tapestry: Woven cloth, Mediaeval design. Bed: Japanese Futon.

Project cost (excluding land) \$127,000

