



during the summer and keeps the home cool. In winter, thermal mass stores the sun's heat and releases it at night, which keeps the home warm. Insulation also acts as a barrier to heat flow to keep homes warm in winter and cool in summer, while photovoltaic solar panels use the heat of direct sun and turn it into current electricity. The electricity can be redirected to a home supply or purchased by an electricity supplier.

Rainwater tanks are not only a source of fresh drinking water, they can also supply other areas of the home with this valuable natural resource. Grey water, or wastewater, can be collected, treated, then used to water the garden – and with new technology becoming more affordable, grey water may be used in other ways around the home.

Eco Designer Homes' range of designs is as diverse as the Australian landscape. The company designs homes to withstand the extreme weather of the arid North West, retreats that sit comfortably on the coastal sands to the vineyards and forest of the South West, or art deco creations to suit an inner-city dwelling.

The home designs always incorporate energy efficiency and sustainable design principles to save money as well as to protect the environment.

Eco Designer Homes uses framed construction in its homes to enable quick delivery and maintain high quality control standards with less impact on the surrounds. Each design is named after one of the surfbreaks along WA's magnificent coastline, reflecting the company's philosophy and nature.

The company has chosen its partner builders to reflect its values and aims in dealing with both clients and their projects. In the Perth metropolitan area, encompassing Yanchep in the north, the hills in the east and south to Mandurah, is Bill Hughes of Building Edge. South west of WA, from Busselton to Dunsborough, Yallingup and surrounds, is Ken Ward of Green House Construction. Manjimup and the surrounding area is covered by the family-owned and operated business of Karamfiles Builders. Karamfiles services an area stretching from Walpole in the south to Kirrup in the north, and from Nannup in the west to Boyup Brook in the east.

Eco Designer Homes' award-winning designer Rob Skipworth believes each home can be adapted to take full advantage of its natural landscape and environment. He has been creating memorable places of residence since 1981, from small units to multi-storey apartments, large commercial developments and alternative home designs, as well as upmarket, one-off design holiday homes.

Rob has covered the breadth of WA in his work and received many industry awards. In 2002, he won the National Building Designer Award for the Building Designers Association of Australia. Other awards include a winner or finalist in the Annual Building Designers Association Awards in WA from 1994 through to 2004 and being awarded by the Masters Builders Association in 2001, 2002, 2004. **BC**

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