

Green Architects

Architects are the people who are responsible for designing buildings and today, many of them are beginning to realise that passive solar design and energy efficiency can save their clients thousands of dollars in electricity usage as well as contributing to the abatement of greenhouse gases.

Using the principles of energy efficient housing and the **Energy Efficient House** Design Checklist, design and build your very own model of an energy efficient home based on the following specifications:

- 4 bedrooms
- two bathroom
- games room
- lounge room
- dining room
- Windows in each room with external wall
- three external doors (one main, one laundry, one sliding glass)
- Verandah and pergola
- Fireplace or slow combustion wood stove
- brick and tile house

1. Write a project description, outlining the areas suggested in the Hints section and any others that may be important. (250 words)
2. Draw a floor plan for your house and include the dimensions of the rooms.
3. Construct your home using materials which you have available, carefully labelling what each of the materials will be if you were to build that house.

Hints

Don't forget to include type of building materials, climate, lighting, windows and shading, insulation, landscaping, hot water system and a double carport!

More Green Architects

Unfortunately, there aren't too many homes built by major home builders who take energy efficiency into account when they are designing homes. However, little things can make all the difference between a naturally comfortable home and an uncomfortable one.

Things to Get

Floor Plan from a project home advertised in the paper
Energy Efficient House? Design Checklist

Things to Do

Using the principles of energy efficient housing, modify the design of a project home so that it would be an Energy Efficient House on the Design Checklist and be considered as an Energy Efficient home.

Hints

Don't forget to include building materials, orientation, insulation, landscaping, hot water system and the double carport in your modifications!

Things to Talk About

What kinds of things did you need to do to the house plan to make it an energy efficient house?

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If this house was built on the block that your house is currently built on, with the same orientation, would it be energy efficient?

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Compare your plan to others in the class. What can you say about the energy efficiency of project homes being advertised?

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