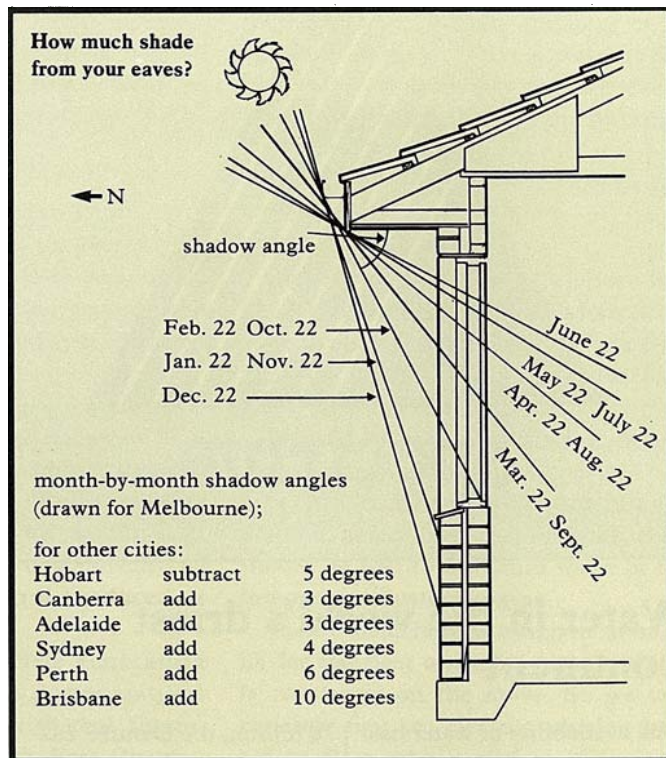


Your house as a passive solar collector



Turning your house into a 'passive' solar collector is a matter of maximizing the amount of heat the house gains in winter and minimizing it in summer. In this way, comfort is improved without the need for 'active' solar collectors.

The CSIRO Division of Building Research (P.O. Box 56, Highett, Vic. 3190) has published a leaflet enumerating a number of ways this can be done. Some are applicable to builders or renovators, others can be simply applied to existing homes.

One important consideration is that eaves on walls facing north should be designed to completely shade windows from late October to late February.

Eave overhangs can be determined by using the sun angles shown in the diagram. It shows the shading effect provided at noon, during each month, by eaves on a wall facing true north. The diagram is drawn for Melbourne; for other

places, outside the tropics, apply the corrections shown in the diagram.

To design the eave, transfer the shadow angle for February 22 and October 22 to a similar scale drawing of your proposed eave-window arrangement. By extending your eave or raising the window sill, you can arrive at a design that leaves the window in shadow during the summer.

