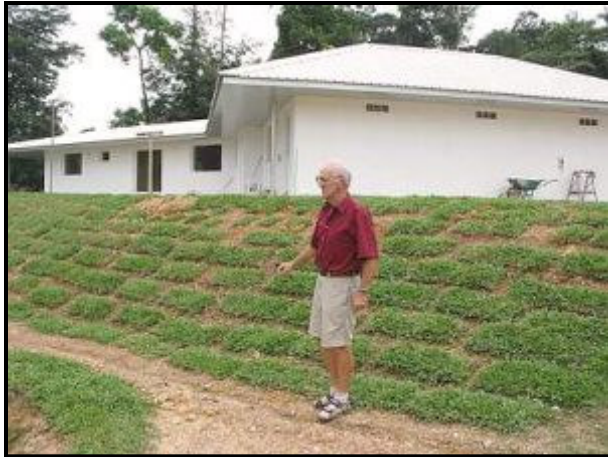


## Couple build energy-saving home

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LEE YUK PENG (The Star, 16 Nov 2005)



**MALAYSIA** My Second Home participants Harry Boswell and Stephanie Bacon have built a house that reflects their concern for the environment and love for nature.

Having chosen to live in Malacca, they built a heat-resistant and energy-saving house with a wildlife pond in the compound.

Boswell, 70, said he designed the house with a white steel roof to deflect sunlight and two underground chambers to collect cool air.

He said the extra thick walls and two layers of glass for windows and doors helped to keep the house cool.

To prevent the roof from becoming noisy during heavy rain, Boswell stuffed Rockwool grounded into fibre between the steel roof and aluminum ceiling.

"This stops the noise and the Rockwool also stops heat from travelling into the house," he said.

Boswell said he kept the aluminum ceiling low at 2.5m to keep the air inside cool.

"The air-condition units in the house do not need to work extra hard to keep the house cool since the ceiling is low," he said.

He said the windows were made to face anywhere but the east to prevent heat from the sun from entering the house.

Boswell used aerated concrete, which is lighter and resistant to fire, sound and heat.

Beneath the laminated floor, 50mm thick polyurethane was placed to stop cool air from going into the ground while channelling cool air into the house.

Boswell said it cost him only RM2 a day to run four units of air-conditioners 24 hours a day at a temperature of 24 degrees Celsius.

The couple had a house located between two rivers with 7,000 trees in the vicinity of Cambridgeshire, England.

Boswell said he did not mind sharing his design with those intending to build an energy-saving home.

Boswell can be reached at 012-217 5590.

