

# LET THERE BE LIGHT

Like an artist's final brushstroke, adding the right window, door or skylight to your home can complete the overall picture

Words Carrol Baker





A trio of skylights.  
[atlite.com.au](http://atlite.com.au)



Feature circular skylight.  
[atlite.com.au](http://atlite.com.au)

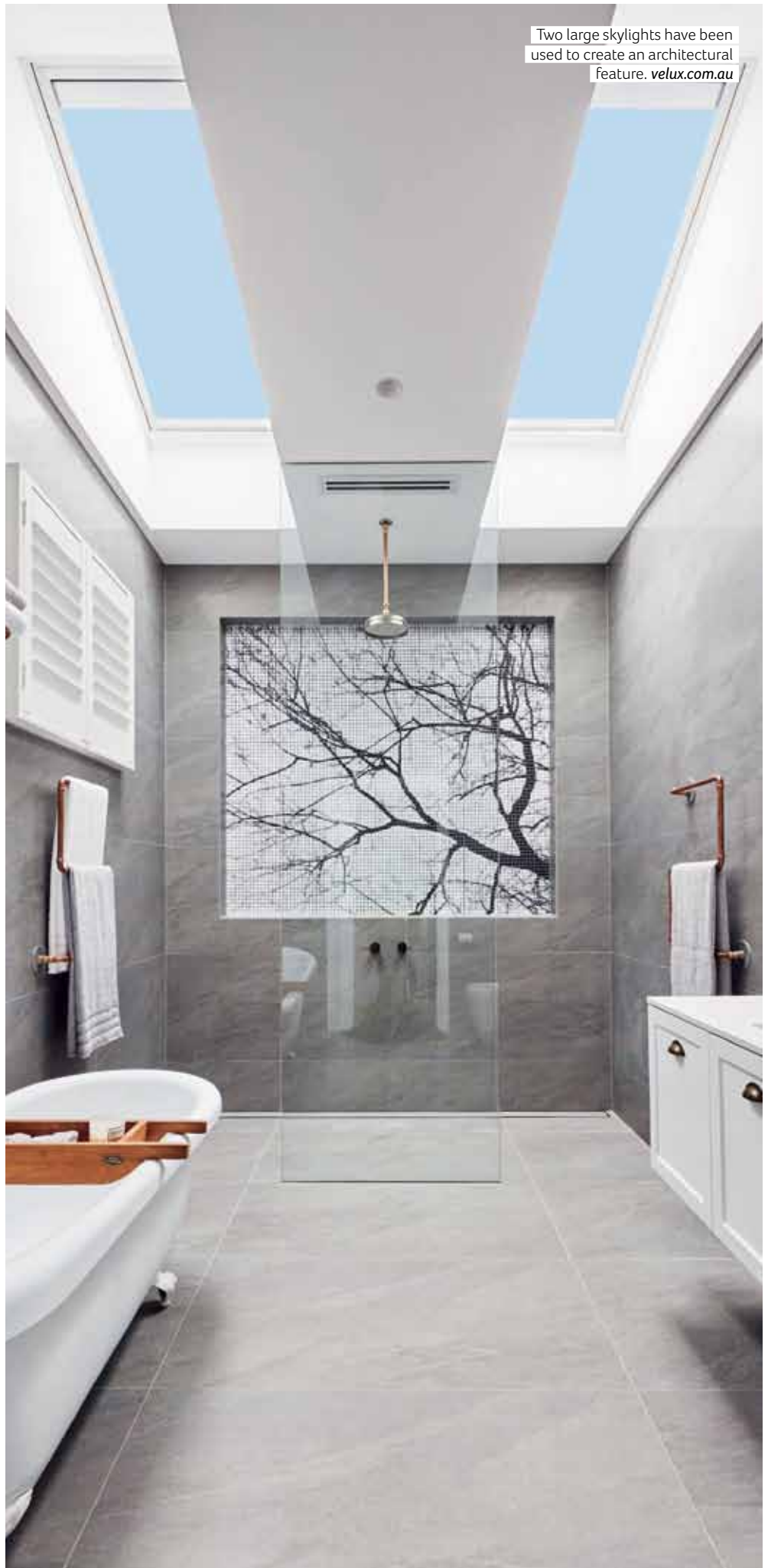
**D**oors, windows and skylights can let in light and cooling air, but they also keep out unwanted intruders and pests. So while aesthetics play a big role when selecting your doors and windows, they serve important functions in many other respects too.

#### **WINDOWS — GO WITH THE FLOW**

No matter what style of windows you choose, their placement can capture cooling breezes, allow free flow of air throughout the home, invite in natural light, and capture views beyond the home's interior. Where to place windows is an important consideration. When positioned in the right spot they can help you make the most of prevailing breezes and enhance cross ventilation. They'll also help to maximise views of the garden, poolside, play zones, and other areas that are aesthetically pleasing.

Of course, there's more to window placement than just views. Windows that are energy efficient should be high on your list of must-haves for your home. This is because of heat gain and heat loss, which can be responsible for 25–30 per cent of residential heating and cooling energy use.

Selecting the right window for your climate zone is important too. The Window Energy Rating Scheme is managed by the Australian Window Association (AWA) and it offers advice on how to choose the most suitable windows for where you live. For more information check out [wers.net/werscontent/energy-efficient-windows](http://wers.net/werscontent/energy-efficient-windows)



Two large skylights have been used to create an architectural feature. [velux.com.au](http://velux.com.au)



This Bifold window connects indoor and outdoor spaces. [dowell.com.au](http://dowell.com.au)



Alfresco sliding doors. [dowell.com.au](http://dowell.com.au)



Glass lighting and ample windows creates a symphony of light. [aspectdesigns.com.au](http://aspectdesigns.com.au)



Louvre windows allow cool breezes to flow through. [cedarandsuede.com.au](http://cedarandsuede.com.au)



#### ON TREND

Large sliding doors are perfect for connecting your home's interior with the outdoors, providing a sense of openness, creating an unrestricted view and inviting gentle breezes inside. What sets Botanica sliding doors apart are the clean design aesthetic, availability of taller and wider panels, and the doors' effortless movement and graceful operation. With a variety of styles on offer, you're sure to find a design to complement any room or design. [trendwindows.com.au](http://trendwindows.com.au)

#### SO WHAT'S NEW IN DOORS AND WINDOWS?

We put the question to Kristian Guillermo from Bradnam Doors and Windows, and he says there's lots happening in new-look products to improve liveability, durability and eco efficiency.

"High-performance windows and doors that open up a house are the trending products in our industry," he says. "The demand is being driven by regulations, especially energy efficiency." According to Kristian, one way to be more energy efficient is through double glazing, which he says reduces energy costs by around 20 per cent. It involves panels made up of two pieces of glass bonded together with a spacer between them, which is hermetically sealed and filled with argon gas, he explains. Kristian adds that another change driven by modern housing is the growth of the apartment segment. "This is driving the need for better acoustic performance," he says. Double glazing helps with acoustics. The seals and acoustic layers within the glass absorb more sound energy, thereby diminishing traffic sounds and noisy neighbours.

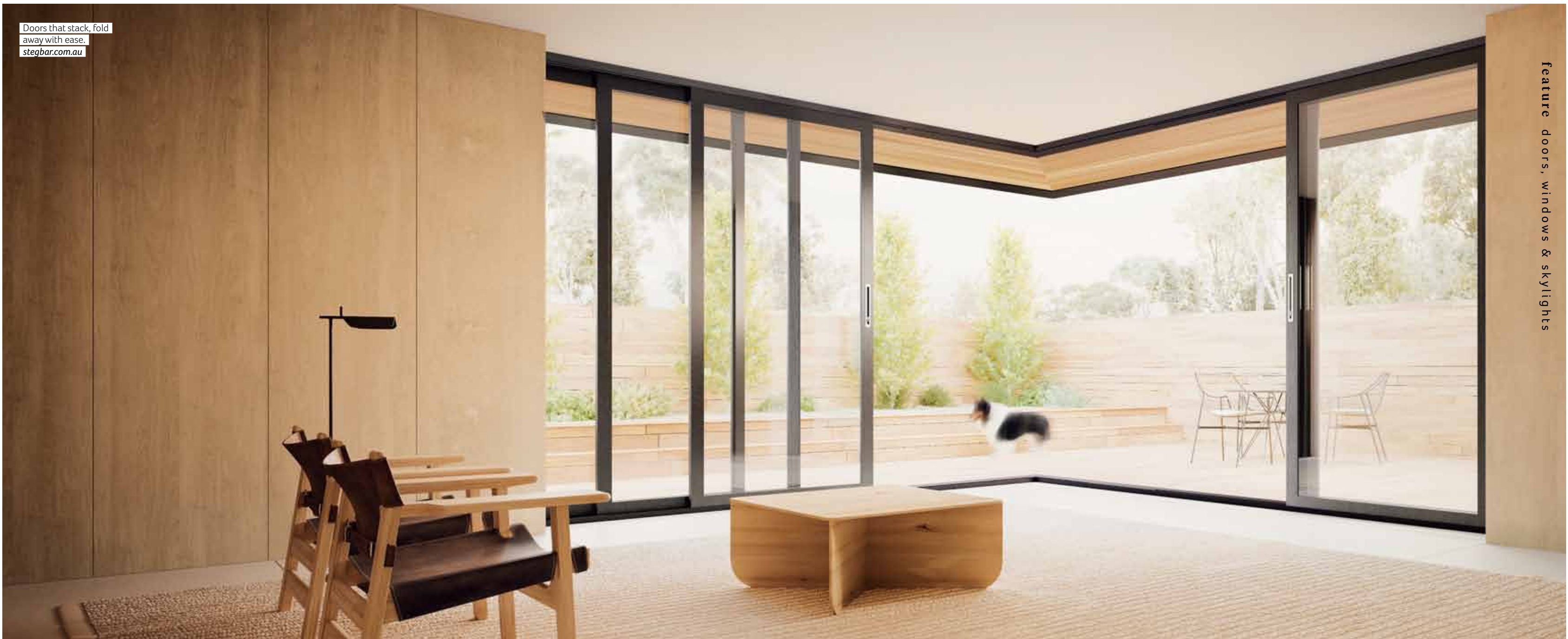
Doors, too, are becoming far more important in houses, says Kristian; they're not just for entering and exiting. "Products such as corner sliding doors and bi-fold doors are being included by more and more builders in their standard packages," he says.

#### CONNECTING INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SPACES

The concept of the outdoor room is integral to the Australian lifestyle; it's part of the fabric of the way we live — firing up the barbecue, long lazy Sunday brunches, kids splashing in the outdoor swimming pool. It's quintessentially Australian. The sense of connectivity between indoor and outdoor spaces can be enhanced by choosing the right kind of door to create a seamless integration. Doors that connect indoor or outdoor spaces tend to stack together, slide behind each other, swing outwards, or pivot open on a hinge so they are both indoors and out.

According to Christine Evans, Stegbar's marketing manager, the right door can make the interior of your home seem more spacious, as well as help to enhance the sense of connectivity. "The perfect way to do this is to use glass doors that function as walls," she says. "The glass allows for unobstructed views and can open up your indoor room to the connecting outdoor space. Sliding and stacking doors allow for large expanses of glass to take advantage of the view. They open sideways rather than inwards or outwards, gliding alongside another panel or the framework of the house. They can be fully retracted into the walls of the house, completely disappearing and maximising the opening. They also easily accommodate lockable security screens. However, homeowners need to consider that the frame and track thickness will be larger for stacking doors to accommodate for the panels and screens."

Doors that stack, fold  
away with ease.  
[stegbar.com.au](http://stegbar.com.au)



feature doors, windows & skylights

Bi-fold doors are designed to invite the outdoors in — as much or as little as you choose. When friends gather for a party you can open up the doors completely, but when the winter chill permeates the air, you can close them and guests can still admire the view outdoors.

Christine says bi-fold doors, made up of a series of individual folding door panels, also help to create the illusion of a larger interior. “Like sliding and stacking doors, bi-folds open up entirely to create the ultimate indoor-outdoor entertaining area. However, when closed they inhibit the view more than sliding and stacking doors. Bi-folds can be pushed to one or both sides of the opening and they can open inwards or outwards,” she says.

Christine adds that in some cases, you may need to sacrifice some indoor space to enjoy the outdoors. “You can still maximise the view with a

glass-hinged door. They will require more space to open, equal to the width of the door because they swing in or out. The advantage of hinged doors is that they allow for easier access without opening an entire sliding or stacking door system,” she says.

French doors are another stylish option. “These are perfect for smaller openings and a more traditional look; they work best off a bedroom or small courtyard, or as a utility door,” says Christine. French doors bring a refined look to the home’s exterior and effortlessly connect outdoors and in. The classically designed timber inserts add a touch of continental elegance to a modern home.

Another way of connecting indoor and outdoor spaces, and welcome in more light, is to replace some windows with doors.



Brio screen. [woodworkers.com.au](http://woodworkers.com.au)

#### THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

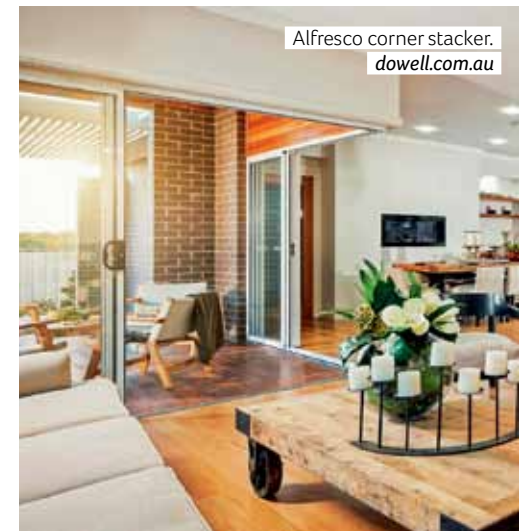
Skylights increase the depth and height of a room as they draw the eye upwards and are functional in that they allow natural daylight into a space. When they are positioned in the right place, you can even see the starlit sky at night. Modern skylights can also be a design feature, a beautiful architectural focal point that adds value.

Skylights can boost privacy, too — no need to worry about putting on a show for the neighbours while you shower! “A skylight can also increase natural lighting without compromising privacy,” says Moses Auvale from Atlite. “Atlite’s roof window is more of a window to the sky. If privacy is an issue but more light is needed, a skylight/roof window could be the answer.”

Moses says the natural light from a skylight helps to boost your mood. “Skylights can brighten

up the darkest of corners,” he says. “Natural light has a calming effect and overall it’s good for your wellbeing. If it’s situated in the optimum position, a skylight allows in more natural light and warmth, meaning less energy consumption.” So skylights not only help the planet — they’re good for your hip pocket too.

Skylights can be used in virtually any room in the house and Moses points out that the softer, natural lighting makes a small room appear larger. “Skylights are excellent in bathrooms, hallways and other rooms that are lacking the space for larger windows,” he adds. Still not convinced? Moses says openable skylights are a great way to increase ventilation in a room. “Leave the roof window open and come home to a fresh airy house without compromising home security.”



Alfresco corner stacker.  
[dowell.com.au](http://dowell.com.au)



Oversized bronze door.  
urbanfront.com



Doors Plus Guardian 2 in 1.  
doorsplus.com.au



Frosted glass door.  
woodcraftdoors.com.au



Blue door.  
urbanfront.com



Stegbar Corinthian  
blonde oak door.  
stegbar.com.au



Black leadlite door.  
woodcraftdoors.com.au

## SHUT THE FRONT DOOR

The very first thing that visitors to your home will notice is the front door. The right front door can make a design statement, create a warm and welcoming entry and even be a focal point of your home. There is a diverse array of front door styles and materials to

match glass, timber, composite products, metal and more. When choosing a front door, it's important to get the scale and size right, and to factor in issues like privacy and, of course, security. Front doors are also exposed to the elements so durability and finish are

key — don't scrimp on quality. Smart front door shopping is all about keeping your style in mind and balancing that with other elements so you'll have a product that will not only be the envy of the neighbourhood, but will stand the test of time.



THIS PAGE Images courtesy  
of Solatube. [solatube.com.au](http://solatube.com.au)



## ENHANCE YOUR HOME AND LIFE WITH NATURAL LIGHT

The benefits of skylights extend beyond our environment to our own personal wellbeing. The increase in natural light that a skylight provides can have a variety of physical and psychological benefits. They not only bring new life to a room, but also improve our health and happiness as well.

Enter Solatube — quality skylight installation with products designed for Australian conditions. Solatube has revolutionary designs that bring natural light into dark places in an affordable way. By effectively capturing and bringing daylight into your interiors from the early morning until late afternoon, these solutions can improve your health while reducing the need to rely on other traditional sources of lighting.

Solatube's various lighting fixtures and accessories compliment any interior, adding to a home's style and aesthetics. A Solatube Daylighting System is one of the easiest, quickest and most affordable ways to effectively bring the right amount of natural light into your home.

Lighting is such an important factor in new and renovated homes and the correct placement of skylights is essential. Complementing other sources of natural light to the room is vital and natural lighting design should be approached differently to artificial lighting design. Solatube incorporates style and functionality to suit both environment and design, ensuring your home is always in good hands. **HD** [solatube.com.au](http://solatube.com.au)

