



Flood resistance a winner

HOUSING design could have a major part to play in rebuilding flood areas.

Winner of the LJ Hooker Flood Design Competition, aimed at providing new flood resistant designs, is Queensland-based Dion Seminara Architecture.

The winning concept home is to be built in a controlled environment, with the home being transported to the site in two parts and connected down the centre.

This means the building construction can be controlled and costs limited where possible.

The approach allows for mass construction.

In designing the home, winning architect Dion Seminara said one of his main aims was to provide for easy post-flood clean up, with flexible use of the ground level for

vehicles or storage.

"The concept home has a flood clearance level of 4.5m to the first floor," he said.

"This zone features materials and finishes that can be hosed down without damage.

"The design itself allows water to flow through the building without placing pressure on the structure.

"The concept home is built on posts making it suitable for any sloping site and has the flexibility to be expanded through interlocking pavilion extensions."

Mr Seminara said the environmentally friendly design featured lightweight building materials and fitted into urban and bush environments.

Co-sponsor of the event were Archicentre, who's state man-

ager Ian Agnew said the competition highlighted the role of architects in solving problems of flood-prone areas.

He said these issues centred on housing affordability through innovative design.

L J Hooker CEO and competition judge Leslie Janusz Hooker said floods could be a \$63 billion problem for Australia, given the number of homes at risk in the country.

As many as 247,600 individual buildings are potentially at risk of inundation in Australia this century, according to an Australian Department of Climate Change report.

The design will be built as a demonstration by QLD Lifestyle Development Group.



Artist's impression

The winning flood resistant design has a high flood-clearance level to the first floor