

NEW HOMES

BUILDING AND RENOVATIONS

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NEW
HOMES

ON SHOW

Out & About

Wild grandeur



Lion before Storm by Nick Brandt.

NICK Brandt's exhibition *A Shadow Falls* is a reminder of the extraordinary beauty we are in danger of losing. Photographed in East Africa, these complex and powerful wildlife portraits show mysterious, splendid creatures at home in an extraordinary landscape.

April 21 to May 12 at Source Photographica, 1A Rose Street, Brighton. Phone 9530 6059. sourcephotographica.com.au

Weaving a tale



With curves in all the right places

Inspired by the water tank, a simple design offers affordable housing with an interesting bent, writes **Kerrie O'Brien**.

THE distinctive design of Reiny Loeliger's houses was inspired by that ubiquitous landmark of rural Australia, the humble water tank. Corrugated iron — or steel, these days — extends in a curve from one edge of the house to the other, creating an arched roof — rather like a tank that has been cut in half and laid on its side. This arch shape is carried through the interior, creating an unusual, but workable, space characterised by a curved ceiling and walls.

Since he started work as a young carpenter, Loeliger had wondered how to create houses that were affordable for the masses. The idea for a cheap and simple building system came to him almost 40 years ago. Apart from the economics, he argues there is nothing like the achievement of building your own

home and raising your family in it. Not surprisingly, he sees the McMansions going up today as completely ridiculous.

"What we're building today is far too over the top," Loeliger says. "There's no recognition of the family unit and its importance."

His system, which would become the design for RAL Homes is, like many good ideas, incredibly simple. It comprises several arches, each consisting of eight equal prefabricated timber panels joined with steel bolts. Then it's simply a matter of adding the end walls, windows and intersecting arches where needed. The arches can be built on stumps with wooden floors or concrete slabs.

Beyond the basic size, the house can be extended in any direction at any time, says Mr Loeliger, who has