

GRAND DESIGNS AUSTRALIA

Inspiring you to create your dream home

PETER MADDISON
ANSWERS YOUR
QUESTIONS



8th
edition

Celebrating Australia's best
70 PAGES OF DREAM HOUSES FOR REAL LIVING



FUTURE-PROOFING YOUR HOME

How to create unique, affordable and sustainable interiors

SMART BUDGETS

Tricks and advice to keep your finances on track

TREAD LIGHTLY

Versatile, durable and sustainable flooring ideas

PLANT LIFE

Tips to take your garden from good to spectacular

AMA 2013 WINNER:

MAGAZINE LAUNCH OF THE YEAR

LIFESTYLE

Future-Proofing YOUR INTERIORS

How to create interiors that are unique to your style by making choices that are affordable and sustainable

WORDS / Kate St James, FDIA



This lounge room by Okologi features a George Nelson saucer pendant light, coffee table, stool and cabinet all from Mark Tuckey, Cleo sofa from Jardan, vintage armchair reupholstered in a printed linen, painting by Miranda Sloczak, Caravaggio table lamp, woven baskets from Safari Living, custom-made green velvet cushion, small cushion by Megan Park from Safari Carpets, undyed woolen carpet from Don Curry Carpets, cellular paper blinds on windows. okologi.com.au



The internal courtyard of this home by Australian Living features recycled timber as part of the garden wall. The beams are from an old bridge in Corris Harbour, from 1920, designed by Percy Allen. The outdoor furniture is from a second-hand shop with the cushions having been re-covered with offcuts from Cloth. The 100 per cent pure wool rug is from Designer Rugs and is low VOC. Photography: Sue Stubbs

There are many benefits in choosing to participate in eco-friendly, responsible interior design practices

I've been interested in sustainability and sustainable or environmentally friendly architecture and design for more than 30 years. To me, the concept of conserving resources and using them in a responsible manner just makes sense.

During this time, there have been many important developments creating even more opportunities to choose environmentally friendly products and services. So, while the principles of environmentally sustainable design (ESD) haven't really changed, the interest in and range of products and services certainly has, making it easier for homeowners to choose to go "green".

There are 23 million people in Australia and we have an enviable quality of life compared to many countries. We have access to many natural resources, which we need to

manage responsibly to ensure they last for future generations.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, we throw away more than 53 million tonnes of waste each year, much of which ends up in landfill. That's around 19 x 120L wheelie bins per person! This is second only to the USA.

We all need to play our part and recycle as much as possible to reduce the amount of waste we create and environmental harm caused by our actions. By choosing more sustainable goods and services that put less strain on resources and create less waste, you will not only be doing yourself and your family good, you will be helping others and the environment.

One way in which we can reduce waste and use less of our non-renewable resources is by incorporating eco-friendly, sustainable interiors in our homes.



Designed by Okologi this space includes a vintage Chinese altar table, vintage demijohn bottle, antique marble bowl, framed print from Third Drawer Down, Eames walnut stool, and vintage Moroccan rug from Loom Rugs

In this lounge and dining room, furnishings include a hardwood loop table, eggcup stool and oak chairs from Mark Tuckey, Nook sofa and chair from Jardan, old yarn rug (red) from Loom Rugs, old yarn Takmak Kilim from Loom Rugs, custom-made linen drum, custom-made lined, sheer linen curtains. Project by okologi.com.au



Environmental benefits include low impact on people and the environment

WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE INTERIOR DESIGN?

Designing interiors that are made to last. Using environmentally sustainable materials and manufacturing methods that don't impact negatively on our environment or us has a number of benefits. It not only encourages long-term use but intelligent, responsible design also provides healthier spaces and connects people with the natural environment.

I believe all interiors should be designed in a timeless manner, whatever your taste. Avoiding short-term trends will give you interiors of enduring style that never look dated.

As the late Coco Chanel said, "fashion fades, only style remains the same."

WHY DO YOU NEED IT?

FOR LONGEVITY

Buying products that don't need to be replaced every few years places less strain on current resources, conserving them for the enjoyment of future generations.

FOR HEALTH AND COMFORT

We can improve our health, comfort and enjoyment with better thermal qualities (heating and cooling) using passive design principles. We can also improve indoor air quality using products with low or no volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and provide a greater connection to the natural environment by using eco-friendly products.

FOR ECONOMY

By buying better-quality, longer-lasting items and employing passive-solar design principles, you can save on energy bills and save money.

SALES POTENTIAL

There is a growing trend with a number of real estate agents to give homes for sale an "eco" rating in order to inform potential buyers about the house they are considering purchasing. By improving a building's ambience, operation, energy use and maintenance, you may increase its future sales potential.



This kitchen by Brave New Eco features many eco-friendly materials including EO rated plywood for kitchen carcasses, Australian spotted gum timber veneer on cupboard doors, reclaimed elm timber bench top, handmade handles using salvaged elm timber, shallow cupboard design to minimise space, low-flow tapware, pantry designed to slow bulk food items to reduce packaging. Natural beeswax sealant on concrete bench-top and natural Tung oil finish on timber bench top. Quantum micro clear low VOC water based oil finish used on spotted gum timber veneer cupboards, recessed compost bucket in kitchen bench, highly efficient and long-lasting LED lighting, recess mounted into the overhead cupboards.
Photography Lloyd Shield

Economic benefits include energy conservation, low maintenance, longer life and potential added sales value

HOW DO YOU GET IT?

One of the first things to do when creating your interiors is to decide what you will purchase from new, renewable sources and/or from existing products by upcycling and/or recycling.

If you're interested in upcycling or recycling, you can visit stores that specialise in recycled materials such as windows and doors, fireplaces, bricks, tiles, roof sheeting, baths, hand basins and furniture and furnishings. Just look online to find your nearest location. You'll be amazed at what you can find.

But not all products need to be recycled and your interiors do not need to look like historical relics or "hippy" dwellings. If your look is more contemporary and you just have to have new, you will find there is a wide range of new products available, both locally made and imported, that are manufactured from sustainable materials and practices.

When sourcing new products and materials, ensure you consider not only the manufacturer's green credentials but also the lifecycle of the product and where it was manufactured.

And while some products may appear more expensive in the first instance, it's important to weigh up the costs vs. benefits. These are durability, longevity, sustainability, maintenance and health advantages.

HOW DO YOU FIND YOUR STYLE?

READ MAGAZINES

Magazines provide a wealth of information and advice on products and services along with case studies by design professionals.

SURF THE INTERNET

Websites are such an invaluable resource for researching ideas, products, suppliers, architects and designers.

READ BOOKS

Many books are written on the subject of sustainable design and living.

VISIT SHOWROOMS

Seek out showrooms, manufacturers and suppliers with green credentials.

MOOD BOARDS

Create a mood board from all the things you love. This will give you the basis of your preferences and a place from which to move forward.

PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE

Interior designers are trained professionals who can help you find your style and who can



This smart kitchen features custom cabinetry by Oakwood Kitchens, hand-glazed tiles from Urban Edge ceramics, Tonic tap from Rogerseller, engineered oak flooring, teapot from Husk, handmade ceramic cups, handmade timber chopping board and round plates from Country Road, Urban Cartel boards and bowls on shelf, white faceted ceramic vase by Bridget Bodenham.
Project by Okologi.com.au

A beautiful bathroom designed by Ochre features natural flooring, an antique mirror and vanity table. The new bath beautifully integrates with the period pieces. ochre.net. Photography Ditte Isager



This setting includes a timber coffee table made from FSC timber and there is formaldehyde-free fabric on the sofa. The artwork is from villages around India. The branches on the coffee table are from the homeowners' back garden and have been made into a feature. The owners have had the dining table and chairs for 12 years and the Parker sideboard behind the dining table was bought off the back of a truck at a Blueys Beach, NSW, market day. Project by Australian Living

Social benefits include reduced strain on infrastructure, healthier eco systems, reduced use of natural resources and improved quality of life

provide ideas, products and solutions you may not have thought about and which may not be readily available to the general public. They can often save you money, as any outlay on their services can often be recouped by the savings they can provide on products and getting the design right first time.

HOW DO YOU CREATE YOUR STYLE?

There are many different styles you can create. Here are some ideas:

USE ANTIQUE AND VINTAGE PIECES

Quality antique and vintage furniture that has been well cared for or restored can look as beautiful and timeless as the day it was originally created.

UPCYCLED FLEA MARKET FINDS

You'll be amazed at what people throw out and you can save thousands of dollars by collecting and cleaning up these pieces yourself or by having them professionally restored. Remember, "one man's trash is another man's treasure!"

CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE AND FURNISHINGS

Look for companies and brands with green credentials that are manufacturing modern pieces with responsible materials and manufacturing methods.

USE GREEN MATERIALS, SYSTEMS AND STRATEGIES

ESD strategies include passive-solar design such as ideal site orientation, radiant heat and geothermal cooling, heat-resistant exterior finishes and glass, sustainable materials, energy-efficient appliances, water-saving taps and toilets, and eco-friendly furniture and furnishings.

WHAT PRODUCTS CAN YOU USE?

Many designers and manufacturers create exciting new products from waste materials such as paper, glass, ceramics, used tyres, seat belts, soft drink bottles, timber offcuts, cardboard, textile offcuts and industrial waste.

Eco design also uses new sustainable materials and production techniques including FSC-certified (Forest Stewardship Council) timber, fabrics and rugs made from hemp, thistle, bamboo, organic cotton and wool; low VOC paints, glues and finishes, natural linoleum flooring, rubber, cork, wool or fleece for carpets and carpet tiles.

Use hemp for soft furnishings. Hemp is an ideal material for furnishing fabrics and many other interior products. Producing four crops a year, with low water requirement and no chemicals, hemp is strong, durable, naturally antibacterial and has many uses including building materials, bed linen and furnishings, personal care products, clothes and food.

Choose wool or fleece for carpets. It is a 100 per cent natural fibre from a renewable resource.



The Berry House by Hare & Klein includes interior paints from Oikos non-toxic GECA (Good Environmental Choice Australia) approved and timber coatings are non-toxic plant-based oils. The carpet is 100 per cent wool laid on recycled textile non-toxic underlay. Joinery is predominantly local Australian figured Tasmanian oak. GECA-rated locally made furniture is used where appropriate. Australian "bush" furniture is made from willow, silver birch and recycled timbers. Photography Jenni Hare

It is less wasteful in manufacturing than nylon carpet, naturally soil resistant, uses no harmful VOCs and has superior looks and long-term durability. Wool carpet tiles reduce waste as it's easy to replace one tile if damaged and when moving house, you can even take them with you.

Timber flooring from FSC sources is ethical, renewable, warm, durable, beautiful and sustainable. Available in many species and colours, natural timber is an excellent, long-term choice.

Cork floors have come a long way since they were first released to the market. They are a renewable material with superior durability,

available in a range of colours and finishes. They are also hard-wearing, soft underfoot, warm and sound absorbent.

All-natural Linoleum is made from linseed oil, recycled wood flour, cork dust and limestone. It is renewable, durable, biodegradable, low maintenance and available in a range of colours and designs.

Many paints can be harmful to the environment and your health through off-gassing, which can continue for many years, so look for paints with low- or no-VOC (volatile organic compounds) which are a healthier and more sustainable choice.

PRODUCT SELECTION AND LIFECYCLE ANALYSIS

When purchasing products, look for certification such as GECA, Green Tag, FSC and Fair Trade. Not all products will have certification so ask the supplier or manufacturer about their green credentials and those of the products and supply chain used in bringing them to market.

Another consideration is the lifecycle analysis of products (from cradle-to-grave or, more appropriately, from cradle-to-cradle), which assesses the environmental impact associated with each stage of a product's life from initial material extraction, processing, manufacture, distribution, use, repair and maintenance, and ultimate disposal or, more importantly, recycling.

PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP AND MANUFACTURER RESPONSIBILITY

Product stewardship refers to manufacturers taking responsibility for the lifecycle of the products they produce from "cradle-to-cradle", reducing the impact of their products on the environment, and includes:

1. Refurbishment of the product for possible reuse by existing customer or on-selling/remarketing to new customers.
2. On-selling or donation of the product in existing condition to other commercial businesses or organisations.
3. Disassembly of the product components and/or materials to reuse in new product manufacturing. ♣

Source: Corporate Culture/Cultivated

This setting by Fanuli Furniture showcases quality custom-made Franki sofas with hardwood frames and a Tibetan handmade Prestige rug designed by Maurizio Bartolosi in wool and silk. Side tables, stools and the sideboard are manufactured from reclaimed timber by RIVA 1920. fanulifurniture.com.au



Introducing the movers, shakers and style makers of the design world

■ PRODUCED BY / Kate St James, FDIA

JAMES COOPER

James Cooper is an accomplished specialist in sustainable architecture and the thermal performance of buildings. With 20 years' experience in the residential design sector, he is an ardent practitioner of sustainable design principles and maintains a core philosophy of minimising the impacts of buildings on the natural environment. As director of his Sydney-based practice, Sanctum Design, James has received more than 50 design awards and continues to promote climate-conscious design through a broad portfolio of contemporary works and industry media.

"This project was situated in a bushland fringe overlooking Sydney's spectacular Middle Harbour waterway. The prominence of the site meant the design solution should complement its natural surrounds, yet simultaneously protect and reject the constant threat of bushfire. The views available from the site are truly the hero in this landscape. We were required to balance the exploitation of views from living areas with recreational provisions. The natural progression of design response to both physical and implied constraints would make this project one of my favourites, particularly when our clients communicate the joy of having their 'shoes off' living in a sustainable design home, which is naturally comfortable throughout the seasons."

Photography Marian Riabic





JESSICA NIXON & TIMOLI MUSTICA

Jessica Nixon and Timoli Mustica established *okologi* in 2010, bringing together their diverse educational backgrounds, a shared passion for interiors and a love of travel. Jessica initially studied environmental science but after a few years of travelling, her fascination for design and architecture saw her returning to study interior design. Timoli studied literature and cinematography going on to work in business and project management, eventually building her own commercial property. The sisters draw on the influences and inspiration from the world around them, supporting the rich, local craft and design industries. Part of *okologi's* sustainable design philosophy is to create interiors with staying power.

"This was a really special project for us. We had a dream client that handed over complete creative control. We took a tired, dark and poky apartment and gave it a fresh, Scandinavian-inspired facelift, replacing everything but a treasured dowry chest. A palette of white, oak and charcoal creates a canvas to display a growing collection of colourful artwork. A carefully curated selection of locally made furniture adds further colour, texture and sculptural elements. Far from being superficial, design can be life-changing. Unfortunately, this means our client stays in a lot more than she used to!"

Photography Andrew Lecky



DAPHNA TAL

Daphna Tal is the sustainable interiors consultant at Australian Living. Daphna has worked in the interiors industry for more than 20 years and is passionate about, and focused on, the growth of the green interiors industry in Australia. Combining her education in natural therapies and interior design, Daphna provides advice on choosing environmentally friendly and sustainable products to suit a client's lifestyle and taste.

"With sustainability as our number-one priority, Cameron and I started our journey to create a beautiful, contemporary and energy-efficient home for our family. Using environmentally friendly and sustainable products, I was able to create spaces that are warm and healthy. Sitting on our upcycled furniture in our internal courtyard, with its calming green wall, is not only my favourite space, it also helps control the temperature of our house. When we are not busy working in the sustainable building and interior industry, we love spending time in this space with our three kids and Penny, our dog."

Photography Marian Riabic

MEGAN NORGATE

Megan Norgate is an interior designer, permaculture designer, sustainable design consultant and principal of the multidisciplinary sustainable design practice Brave New Eco. She has a passion for designing spaces that function ergonomically while promoting health, happiness and sustainable lifestyles. With a background in fine arts and set decorating for film and TV, Megan is interested in reinterpreting existing spaces in innovative ways. She has a holistic design approach that integrates the built, interior and ecological environment.

"I avoid consciously decorating our home, preferring instead the ongoing project of re-arranging vintage pieces. In this corner, the 1960s bucket chair and the Gus McLaren ceramic lion are hand-me-downs from my grandmother-in-law. The botanical print is a vintage educational poster we bought in Copenhagen. The Quistgaard ceramic bowl is mixed with top shop finds and Japanese snails. Our houseplants are plentiful and are my favourite sculptural element."

Photography Andrew Lecky



MERYL HARE

Meryl Hare is principal of Hare & Klein, a renowned interior design company based in Sydney, which she formed in 1988. Meryl oversees all the company's projects and her inspirational work, for which she has received many awards, includes residential and commercial projects. A fellow of the Design Institute of Australia, Meryl has received a citation for services in the design industry and in 2011 she was inducted into the Design Institute of Australia Hall of Fame.

"This house was dark, depressing and disjointed. Our client's brief was to introduce as much natural light as possible and to make it practical, functional and comfortable. The home was not intended as a showpiece but rather a sanctuary for the family, who appreciate good design and art. It is now filled with light and the flow between spaces is logical and functional."

Photography Marian Riabic

