



GREEN AND ECO FRIENDLY DESIGN AND BUILDING BOOKS



Although [Garbage Warrior](#) is actually a movie rather than a book we thought it was worth a mention. Garbage Warrior is a movie about [Mike Reynolds](#), an Architect who specialises in Earth ships. Earthships??? you say. An earthship is an entirely self sufficient house built from waste or reclaimed materials such as used car tyres. Well worth a look.

WEBSITES WE RECOMMEND



[Biome](#) is an online supplier of all things environmentally friendly for your home. From Sigg bottles through to natural soaps, you can get it all here.

"What good is a house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?"

Henry David Thoreau



See our recent panel interview along with Michael Mobbs for James Hardies' "Look Home TV"



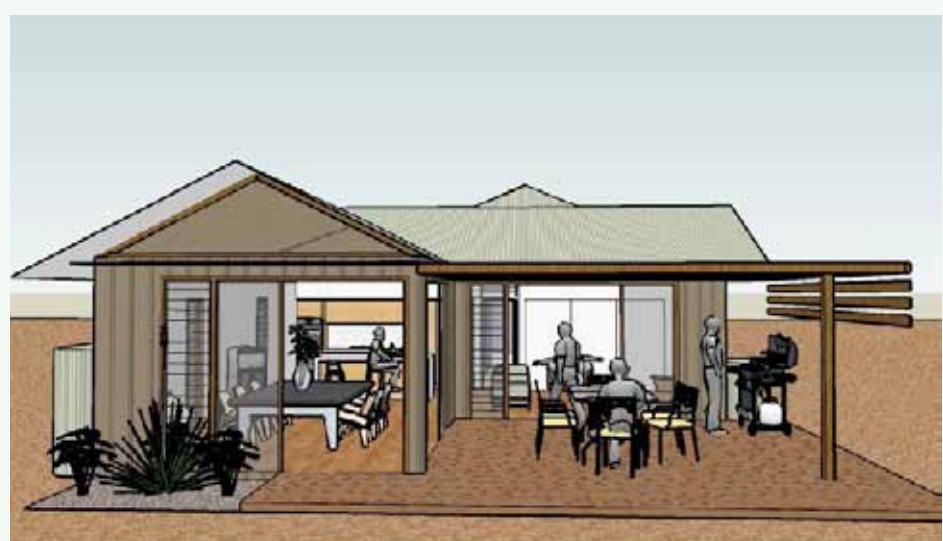
Sharon and Darryn were recently on a panel interviewed by Suzy Yates along with Michael Mobbs for James Hardies' "Look Home TV".

The interview was on 'greenovating', the things that can be done to make the renovation of your home greener and more sustainable.

In the interview we provide some of our "trade secrets" to help you get on your way to the most sustainable renovation possible.

Check out the interview [here](#), look for the links to episode 4.

your abode due to start new construction project in Harbord



Here is an image of our new construction project in Harbord, Sydney which we will commence building in October 2009. The project will be a very eco-friendly renovation to an existing timber cottage. Water and energy consumption for the renovation will be very low due to:

1. a 4000 litre rainwater storage that will be used for the washing machine, toilet flushing and gardens
2. there being no air conditioning due to the excellent breeze ways for summer cooling
3. the use of low-e thermal glass in all of the windows to reduce heat loss in winter and prevent heat gain in summer
4. good eaves and sunshading to keep it cool in summer
5. being designed with good orientation and zoning
6. good wall, floor, ceiling and roof insulation

We will also be using low VOC emission kitchen cupboards and paints and sustainably forested and harvested timbers.

This is a very exciting project for both us and our clients and we will post progress photos as we move through construction work.

Tracking your energy consumption



It is widely known that in order for anyone to be able to easily reduce their energy consumption they need to be able to actually see how much they are using.

The answer to this is to install a monitoring device in your home that quickly and simply gives you the information that you need.

There are several on the market but one of the best ones in our opinion is the [Efergy](#).

The efergy is a wireless smart electricity meter that helps you track how much energy you are using because the monitor gives instantly an accurate reading of how much energy you are consuming.

Efergy tells you every 6 seconds how much power you are consuming, how much money this is costing you and an estimate of your personal contribution to the climate change. If you turn a set of lights ON or OFF, you can see INSTANTLY the change this has to your energy use.

You can buy them online for around \$100.00



How do you use rainwater for flushing your toilet or washing your clothes?

The idea of using your collected rainwater for flushing your toilets or in your washing machine has the potential to substantially reduce your water consumption by up to 40%.

Although this seems a simple process in principle, there are a few little tricks to consider.

1. Unless you have a filter cleaning up the rainwater, there is the potential for any fine silt or tannin coloured water to stain both your clothes and your toilets. A simple filter downstream from your tank will clean out anything that can discolour your water.
2. It is important to ensure that you have a constant water supply available to toilets and washing machines. During a prolonged dry period it is possible that your rainwater tank may run dry and no water be available for your washing machine or toilet. By installing a product such as the [Davey Rainbank](#) shown above, this problem is eliminated. The rainbank senses when the water in your tank is getting low and switches you over to mains water. When the rains come and your tank fills up, the Rainbank senses that there is water in your tank and switches the water supply from the mains water back to your tank. Thus ensuring that you will always have water available.

Live sustainable house case study



We are using our new project at Collaroy in Sydney as a live case study for the construction of a sustainable house. We hope to be able to give a greater number of people an understanding as to what is a sustainable house and how to go about designing and building one.

Construction on site has commenced, so follow progress on our blog [yourabode.....environmentality](#)