

# Face to Face

Welcome to Lilypad's new section – Face to Face – where we talk to interesting people from all walks of life about their personal and professional journeys.



brings a practical environmental focus.

“Good environmental design is all about creating spaces that are healthy for you to live in, as well as being good for the environment,” Darryn says. “We do this by designing spaces to be comfortable all year round and by making

use of environmentally friendly materials, finishes and fittings.”

A qualified design and construction director, Darryn first started 20 years ago as a carpenter. Passionate about design and excited about working on the bigger picture, he moved into building design and construction management.

“Since then I have travelled the world working and learning many aspects of home design and construction in all corners of the globe,” Darryn says. “The most exciting thing for me is to transform people’s needs, personality and style into a highly functional and beautiful home. There are so many fantastic new materials and techniques that really allow us to channel creative ideas into practical solutions and of course these solutions can also be used on boats.”

Sharon Hamilton is the interior design director for *Your Abode*. After completing her interior design qualifications in London, and spending several years travelling and working in Europe, Sharon returned to Australia with a fresh approach and new perspective on interior design.

“I’m constantly learning and looking for new designs and emerging styles – always searching for a new direction,” Sharon says. “Because we spend so much time in the home, it is the most important space we have.”

“I always aim to make interior environments reflect my client’s style, moods and experiences, as well as optimising how they use the space,” she says.

For more information visit [www.yourabode.com.au](http://www.yourabode.com.au)



assembled a significant collection of new works recently exhibited at the Bondi Pavilion. The exhibition, “La mer qu’on voit danser” (The sea, I see it dancing), expresses Michele’s deep affinity with the sea.

“The sea is so emotive,” says Michele who cites Cezanne as one of her major inspirations. “To me the sea has a very volatile and changing mood. It can be a friend, rapidly become an

enemy, even become deadly. Its blue colour changes so quickly to green, grey or purple, and under the influence of the sun, a deep blue, marine blue.”

Michele also harbours a love of boating.

“When I am out on a boat I feel I am in the middle of an ever-changing canvas,” Michele says. “If the sea is not happy, it turns into a black purple – a mirror reflecting growing cloud masses,” she says. “The sea is alive, not static.”

## GREENING YOUR ABODE

Darryn Parkinson and Sharon Hamilton from *Your Abode* are a residential design team with a difference. Describing themselves as the middle ground between an architect and a builder, they offer an integrated and complete residential design service - including interior design plus project management and construction - that

## FRENCH CONNECTION

Born in Paris in 1946, French seascape painter Michele took to drawing and painting from an early age. Her mother, a fashion artist, inadvertently provided Michele with ready access to artists materials.

Later in life, married with children and living in Africa in the late 70s, Michele studied painting with watercolours and oils. It was not long before Michele was exhibiting and selling paintings in Libreville where her home was at the ocean’s edge on the west coast of Africa, providing dazzling imagery for her seascapes.

Michele returned to Paris in 1998 and her painting went into hiatus for a few years. Now living in a harbourside apartment in Sydney, Michele has rekindled her love of painting and has