



Darryn Parkinson and his wife Sharon specialise in the design and construction of modern, environmentally sustainable homes.

Picture: MARTIN LANGE

Green replaces brick

HOME construction in Australia has historically been of the bricks and mortar kind, but change is afoot in the local home market, according to Pittwater builder Darryn Parkinson.

The Avalon resident and director of Your Abode Design and Development believes many people are tired of the traditional style of construction and see brickwork and tiled roofs as being plain old-fashioned.

In his work Darryn has seen a growing trend towards the use of composite

materials such as timber panelling, rendered brickwork and steel for curved roofing.

He said this is a reflection of what Aussies now perceive as being fresh and modern.

"Suddenly weatherboard and corrugated iron has come back and people are building million-dollar homes with it," he said. "It fits in very well with the lifestyle on the beaches.

"Beach shacks used to be built from tin and fibro because it's cheap and the

materials are lighter, which means less time on site, and more cost-savings."

A keen trend-spotter in the building and design industry, Darryn said the move is being driven in part by people's desires not to have a house design based on the copy of a style from elsewhere, but to have a style that reflects Australia and its climate.

"People regard the outside of their home as a reflection of their personality and individuality," Darryn said.



home style
Lynsey Hughes

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"If somebody wants to put a box on the back of their house, they're not my ideal client. It interests me more when a client has ideas and is open to more ideas.

"And from an environmental point of view, a brick and tile home doesn't necessarily represent the most efficient way to obtain a BASIX certificate," he said.

His wife Sharon, an interior designer who completes the integrated package offered in the design and construction of modern, environmentally sustainable homes, also understands the emotional value we place on our homes.

"The home is an emotional thing but it's also got to function and I think sometimes people don't see that so much," Sharon said.

"The environmental side is part of our ethic. In terms of materials people nowadays look at using textures so I look at what the environmental

impact of these materials is. At the end of the day there are some very simple things you can do."

Whether it's a new home built from the ground up, or a major renovation to an existing property, the duo said a good design is the simple one which takes into account the lifestyle of the family who will live there.

"Good thought and planning are free, which comes down to thinking about what you do in your home, and how you live," Darryn said.

Coupled with the intelligent use of materials and by incorporating passive design principles into a home, Darryn and Sharon said they aim to create stylish, enjoyable and comfortable environments for people to live in.

"So many people forget that it's important to have the northern aspect for entertaining and bedrooms in the south. It would cost them no more to re-orient the house."

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