

# MODERN GREEN HOMES Sanctuary

INSIDE ISSUE 26 115+ green products & design tips; A good wood home; Verge gardening; Design Workshop; Global sustainability schemes; Designing with local colour

## GARDEN LIGHT

Inside courtyard homes & an enchanting green roof

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from Tindo Solar

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Humanitarian architecture  
In search of good wood  
Hot water heat pumps

ISSUE 26 • AUTUMN 2014  
AUD\$11.95 • NZ\$12.95  
SANCTUARYMAGAZINE.ORG.AU

ISSN 1833-1416



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# MODERN GREEN HOMES Sanctuary

## Contents

—Issue 26



### HOUSE PROFILES

15

#### Secret gardens

Hidden outdoor spaces and a generous amount of light lie behind the weatherboard façade of this inner-city Melbourne home.

23

#### Modernist ideal

A love of American Modernism influenced the renovation of this house in suburban Sydney.

30

#### A place of rest

An elegant hut designed and constructed with environmental and structural integrity in mind is a peaceful rest spot for trekkers in Queensland's Lockyer Valley.

47

#### Responsive and reposed

A house nestled into a steep gully on the outskirts of Dunedin, New Zealand, required a thoughtful passive solar design response.

51

#### Good old wood

A reorientation, recycled timber and some hands-on work transform a Melbourne house for a couple committed to using only 'good' wood.

58

#### Carbon neutral

This house by a South Australian design firm offsets its carbon footprint over 32 years.



15

51



### FOCUS

34

#### Humanitarian architecture

Australian architects are designing innovative buildings for disaster-affected or underserved communities. As these humanitarian projects show, there's more to sustainability than just a well-designed structure.

# Contents

—Issue 26

---



## DESIGN WORKSHOP

---

40

### Country life

Ash and Bridget Graham have three young children, a block of land in Victoria's northeast and an idea to build a family home that will stand the test of time. Tim Ellis from Timothy Ellis Building Design helps them sketch out a plan.



## OUTDOORS

---

61

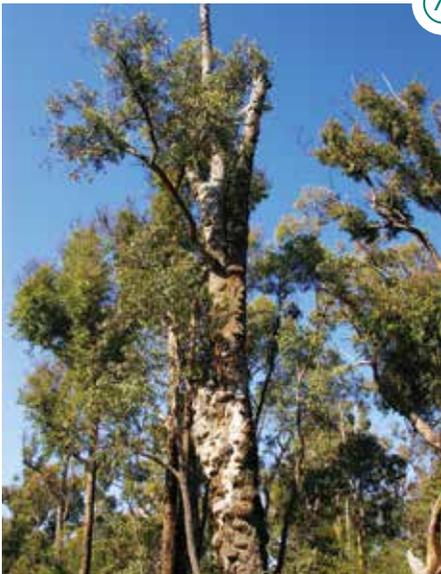
### A bush oasis

A house and garden in the Southern Adelaide Hills complement each other to create a beautiful, energy efficient and productive living environment.

64

### The generous verge

Planting veggies and herbs on the verge is a productive way to garden.



61



## PRODUCT PROFILE

---

73

### In search of good wood

Using good wood in your new build, renovation or for that lovely piece of furniture is an important part of any environmentally and socially responsible project. But how do you go about finding it?

76

### Efficient hot water – a look at heat pumps

Solar hot water is always a great choice when it comes to greener hot water. Drawing on a new hot water guide by the ATA, here we look at energy efficient heat pumps as an alternative.

## SPECIAL FEATURE

---

67

### Speed Date a Sustainability Expert

Speed Date a Sustainable Designer is back in Melbourne this February.



## DESIGN MATTERS

---

81

### A touch of colour

Dick Clarke and Trevor King present their collaborative research and professional approach to 'localness' within design. Here they look at colour.

84

### Measuring up — global sustainability schemes

Sustainable building designer Tim Adams reviews the international energy and sustainable living schemes that are gaining traction in Australia.

86

### A One Planet plan of action

At WestWyck in Melbourne, Mike Hill and Lorna Pitt are continuing their quiet and determined work to reinvent an old school and develop more environmentally responsible homes.

## REGULARS

---

10

### Reviews

12

### In the post

46

### ATA update

57

### Subscribe

88

### Products

92

### Marketplace

96

### Ask our experts

# Secret gardens

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Hidden outdoor spaces and a generous amount of light lie behind the weatherboard façade of this inner-city Melbourne home.

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WORDS Sasha Shtargot

PHOTOGRAPHY Nick Stephenson



After a waterproof membrane was applied to the roof of Phil and Julia's house and two layers of geofabric sandwiching a drainage cell were in place, about three tonnes of soil was hoisted up with a crane to create a 120mm substrate. The roof garden is one of four gardens Phil and Justin Giannikos from MC<sup>2</sup> Architects designed into the home to help with passive cooling. The gardens also serve as rain gardens, capturing and using stormwater.

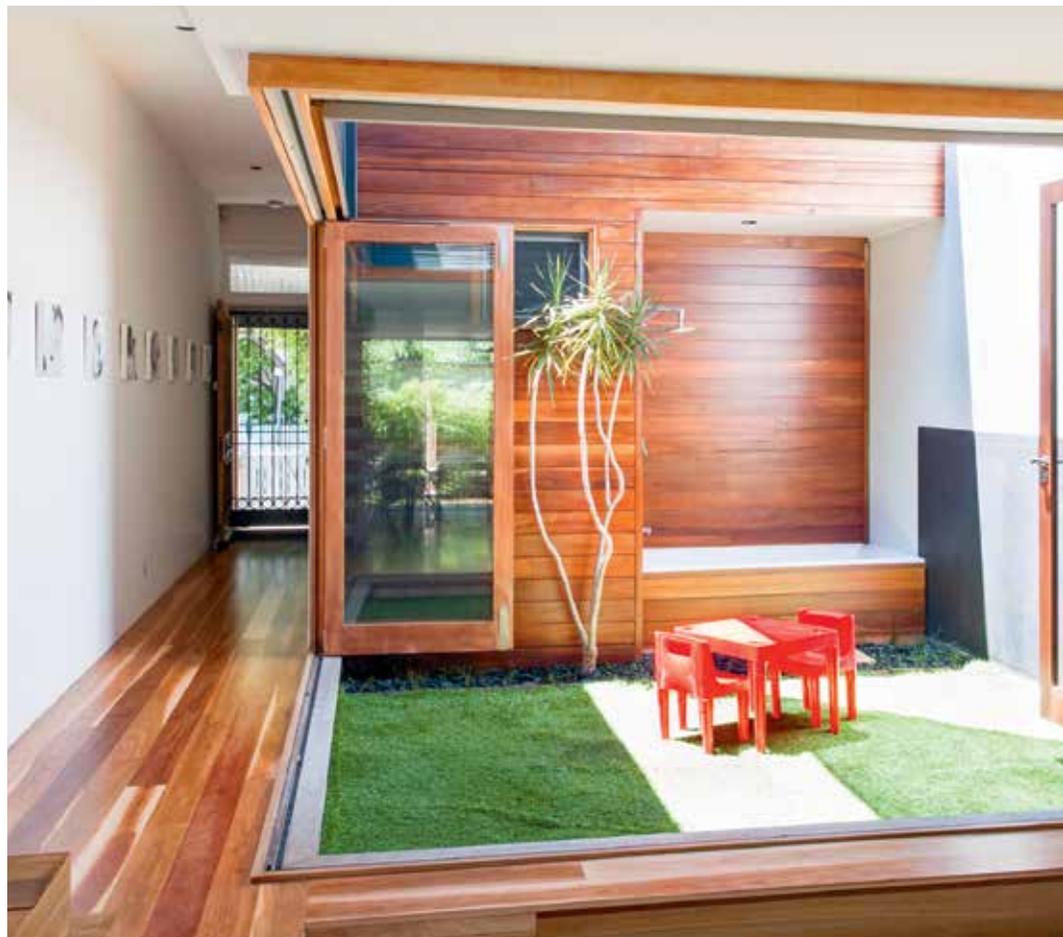


⬆️  
The black coral pea spilling over the roof hints at the remarkable green courtyards and green roof hidden behind the home's weatherboard façade.



⬅️  
Hops planted above the east-facing back door climb up to shade a double-glazed window at the western end of the house in summer.

➡️  
This courtyard divides the front of the house from the rear west-facing living and kitchen spaces, bringing natural light and outdoor elements inside. Minimal LED spot and strip lights artificially light the interior throughout the home.



# Modernist ideal

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A love of American Modernism influenced the renovation of this house in suburban Sydney.

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**WORDS** Rachael Bernstone

**PHOTOGRAPHY** Brett Boardman

**AFTER RAISING THREE BOYS IN THEIR** home in the northern Sydney suburb of Forestville, and discussing plans to extend for many years, homeowners Belinda and Chris finally bit the bullet and approached some architects whose work they'd first seen in this magazine.

"We'd been thinking about renovating for a very long time – we were never happy with the flow of the original house – and had spoken to a draftsman years before who talked about infilling the back of the house and adding another room," Chris says. "But we didn't think that was satisfactory so we put away the idea for a few years."

A renovation by the home's previous owners had added a master bedroom with ensuite, but it was only accessible through the third bedroom. And while the living room at the front of the house faced north, the kitchen and rear deck were south-facing.

Chris and Belinda just couldn't see how best to extend to retain warmth and natural light. That's when architects Carol Marra and Ken Yeh of Marra+Yeh came to the rescue.

"At our second meeting with them, Ken said to Carol, 'Show them your move', and she described her plan to knock down the master bedroom and reorient the house [around an internal courtyard]," Chris says. "We were both excited by that, and worried as well."

Carol also suggested the extension should step down the block to foster a greater sense of connection with the sloping backyard, and she proposed two new decks – one where the master bedroom had stood, and one at the rear – to offer different experiences depending on the weather and the season. →

↻ East and south-facing decks provide outdoor living spaces. This eastern deck replaces the old master bedroom, which now sits in behind it off the dining area.



# A place of rest

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An elegant hut designed and constructed with environmental and structural integrity in mind is a peaceful rest spot for trekkers in Queensland's Lockyer Valley.

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# Humanitarian architecture

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Australian architects are designing innovative buildings for disaster-affected or underserved communities. As these humanitarian projects show, there's more to sustainability than just a well-designed structure.

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WORDS Jacinta Cleary



The Bellary Springs community centre's design by Bower Studio is based around three shipping containers that were used to transport building materials and tools from Melbourne. A large unifying roof over the containers and recycled composite deck and an awning made from plywood panels shade the centre. Image courtesy Bower Studio





# Old Good<sup>^</sup> wood

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A reorientation, recycled timber and some hands-on work transform a Melbourne house for a couple committed to using only good wood.

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**WORDS** Sarah Robertson

**PHOTOGRAPHY** Nick Stephenson

## **WHEN THE TIME CAME TO RENOVATE**

their almost-original 1920s house in Melbourne's west, long-time forest campaigners Liz and Trevor pictured a light-filled and comfortable home for two that truly reflected their values.

"I love wood; we both love wood," says Trevor. "And we wanted to put into our house all of our values and make it as beautiful as possible."

"The concept of home is an emotional thing as well as a physical thing and I don't think that we'd feel good about being in a place where we'd stolen the homes

of endangered species in order to make our home," adds Liz. "There's certainly no reason why you would need to use native forest timber in a home ... from commencement to the fit-out."

Walking through their small home and hearing the story behind every piece of timber, every element of their house – from the frame to the recycled bedroom and pantry doors and the hand-crafted knife block tucked away in the kitchen drawer – has a story behind it and is a testament to Liz and Trevor's commitment to good wood. →



# The generous verge

# In search of good wood

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Using good wood in your new build, renovation or for that lovely piece of furniture is an important part of any environmentally and socially responsible project. But how do you go about finding it?

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WORDS Beth Askham & Sarah Robertson



An old jarrah tree growing near the Bibbulmun Track on the Monadnocks conservation reserve in Western Australia. Photograph by Gngarra / commons.wikimedia.org

**IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT WHEN** choosing a building material, it's vital to consider the social and ecological impacts of its production. Timber is no exception.

Just what sustainably-sourced timber is remains a topic of debate – practically, scientifically, ethically and politically. Yet there are timbers and timber products available that are from well-managed forests where the impacts of commercial growing and harvesting are minimised and their management verified.

There are many benefits to using timber as a building material; it captures and stores carbon without the embodied energy of other materials. It's lovely to look at and can add warmth and texture to a building, room or piece of furniture. It is a naturally insulating material, offering strength and flexibility (depending on the species) and it is fairly easily recycled. A well-managed forest can also provide habitat for animals and livelihoods for local communities.

Still, logging in Australia and overseas

has had significant adverse impacts on people and the environment.

The impacts of logging on our climate, biodiversity, soil erosion and water quality are well documented. Deforestation of Asia's tropical rainforests represents around 15–18 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to global, regional and local changes in climate.

The biggest contribution to habitat degradation and loss of biodiversity in forests occurs when vegetation is removed, sediment is washed into waterways and roads are built. Other factors like pesticides and changed fire regimes also affect local biodiversity. These changes can disrupt the lives of flora, fauna and people who depend on the forests for survival.

If you're buying or using timber in a home renovation or new build project (even recycled), then you need to be savvy about your sources and your suppliers' sources to ensure you make an informed choice about which timber products you use. →

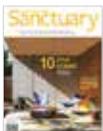
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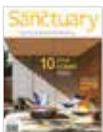


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