

7 Blue Gum Ave Medlow Bath

Some facts about CONSTRUCTION USING RECYCLED MATERIALS

Find out all the details, gossip and see the photos at www.projectroom.com/craig

Craig Laurendet had a vision back in the early 90's, of living a sustainable ecologically friendly lifestyle, of being mortgage free by age 35, and of building his own home. And even more ambitiously than that, Craig decided he wanted to spend as little money as possible building the house, by using almost entirely found and recycled materials.



MATERIALS & TOOLS:

- Craig collected building materials over a ten year period from construction industry waste, demolition, council throwouts, found materials, the Bower and Reverse Garbage.
- Mudbricks were made by a local contractor from soil excavated at Blackheath
- Timber and Posts from trees felled on the house site, and wharf / building demolitions
- Ironstone collected on site and used throughout the house
- Tin, Insulation, Screws, Bolts, etc from a variety of sources (listed on the web site)
- Many of Craig's tools were found in household & business throwouts, whereupon he fixed them and most have lasted and given good service throughout the construction.

INTERESTING ETHICAL & ECOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

To use recycled materials lowers cost but the collection time is also a cost factor. Recycled timbers need de-nailing, recycled tiles may need de-grouting and so on, and storage is a big issue. The piles of materials may seem like old junk to many but they are materials in states of sorting, denailing and so on - extremely useful treasures, saved from being wasted in landfill - now awaiting creative re-use.



Ethically if you are concerned about the environment you can't be rushing round driving everywhere to collect materials as they come up as you are creating carbon pollution. To reduce pollution involves planning and combining several trips into one long loop, and working within a smaller area. Slow travel / slow freight causes a slowing down of processes in other areas, and while society appears to reward "rush rush" and "faster faster", the value of slow travel / slow process is cleaner air and more time with people you care about. But naturally, BUILDING TAKES LONGER if you are being careful to reduce your carbon pollution footprint.

DESIGN

This unique home was designed and "architected" entirely by Craig who has a background in the structural engineering industry. The design considerations include R-factor and insulation, airflow for heating and cooling, flexible use of space, underfloor heating, aside from creating a great home to last many years.

TIME & COSTS

After the sale of Craig's investment property the site was mortgage free, with enough funds to cover construction and live for three years.

Craig's house to date has cost \$76,675.50 to build (includes approx \$30K labourer, \$20K contractors)

non cash costs for building favours, include 1 'BIG' roll of insulation, 5 cartons of beer, many home brews, 2 bottles of wine, 1 day labour exchange.

So far Craig has worked on the building 332.5 days over a four year period to construct what you see here. Other days have been spent in paid work elsewhere, in training, researching/planning, participating in other projects and occasionally climbing.

TIPS AND TRICKS - see more at www.projectroom.com/craig

Building a home yourself is a lifestyle choice - a home business where income is a deferred payment in share of the property, and as you work from home (no travel) is more environmentally friendly.

Recycled materials allow you to create a unique architectural vision, but beware, the more architectural uniqueness you inject into a job the longer it will take.

Poured earth is faster than mud brick, its making one big brick rather than many small. Get a contractor's mud bricks independently assessed by earth engineers, be wary.

If you are planning to collect materials for building - build a large shed first - you can collect your resources, work in it, live in it etc.

Collecting materials yourself saves money but takes loads of time - if you are lucky enough to work in the construction industry as Craig did, you can collect while you are at work! You can also collect as a recreational activity while you are working to save money; and socially - create a network of collectors who can collect in different areas and swap.

Good sources for recycled materials & seconds if you are time strapped: Laws Auctions.

WHAT'S NEXT

Craig wants to work in the recycling / environmental and design sector and is developing a business creating unique windows and other products from recycled hardwoods

More info: www.windowsfromwaste.com.au

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