

BACKYARD SUSTAINABILITY

BAREFOOT SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

DESIGNER BIO: JAYE IRVING

Eco-Designer Jaye Irving has been flying the green banner of sustainability for nearly 10 years exploring the relationship between the natural and built environment.

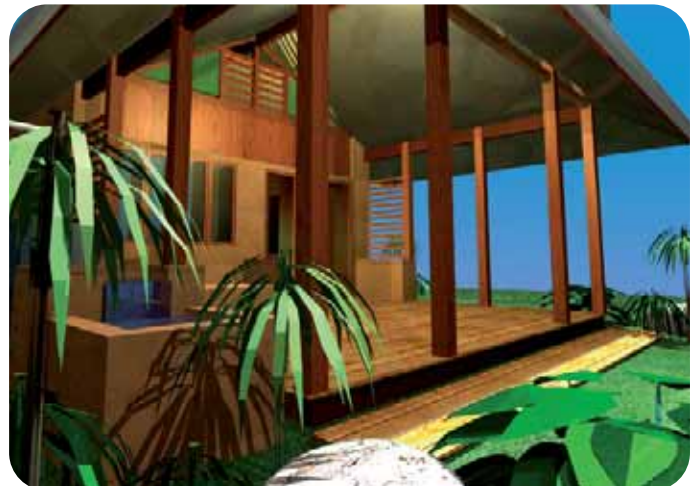
His work initially focused on the larger green issues of redevelopment and reuse of existing & heritage listed structures. He worked on a number of large-scale restoration projects before embarking on a global search for grassroots green design. This search has taken him through numerous developing countries including India, Sri Lanka and Thailand fortifying his skills in integrated food systems, permaculture, ecological sewage design and numerous sustainable building practices including Strawbale and earth construction.

The experience of working in developing countries as a catalyst for change has left Jaye an extremely inspired, motivated and experienced practitioner, consultant and hands-on worker for a greener future.

Based in southeast Queensland Jaye has designed numerous sustainable housing models with a strong focus on reducing the impact of housing on the environment. As an award winning designer Jaye runs numerous sustainable design workshops with industry and local community in attempts to further the understanding of sustainable design.

Earth rendered strawbale and eco-materials form the basis of "Backyard Sustainability".

The large Asian inspired rooflines offer dramatic views, capture breezes and shade from the harsh summer sun. The large sprawling deck flows seamlessly to the surrounding native gardens creating a strong connection to the environment. Following some basic sustainable guidelines this outdoor room creates a model that almost any suburban dwelling can aspire too including; rainwater harvesting, energy collection and a conscious selection of materials aimed at reducing the impact of housing on the environment.



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STRAWBALE HOUSE

The way we live has a direct correlation to the health of the planet. The actions of each person, immediately noticeable or not, have an impact on our environment. Rather than being entities distinct from the whole we are part of a global system and architecture should reflect this.

Sustainability has shown itself to be a necessity rather than a trend favored by a small few. The developed world is using (and corrupting) resources at a grossly unsustainable rate and the manifestation of this is varied. This is easily recognizable in some cases, for instance, in the pollution and waste of drinking water, the devastation of land through poor farming practices and deforestation, and the massive amounts of generated waste sent to landfill each day.

However we often overlook the largest waste generator and consumer of resources which is all around us. Its impact upon us is immediate and it is the thing in life most common to us yet most critical to our planet's survival. It is the built environment, the buildings we live and work in. In fact, buildings consume up to one half of the world's resources. The production of the materials used in most building construction consumes more energy than the building uses in ten years of operation. With this in mind, architecture is well positioned to be a catalyst for change.

A building does not have to possess such a damaging role in this world. With thoughtful design and construction, architecture can have a positive effect on the health of its inhabitants and the surrounding environment. The creation of buildings not just to live in but buildings which mould every aspect of the way we live.

Barefoot Sustainable Design

207 Boundary Street West End Qld 4101

T 07 3844 2091

E jaye@barefootdesign.com.au

W www.barefootdesign.com.au

Artistic Perspectives:

Graham Harper 0424671449

