

SBE Quarterly Newsletter

December 2008 Edition



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TRIBUTE TO DAVID

SBE pays tribute to our founder and mentor David John Oppenheim - the "Sun King" who left us for the skies on the 18th November last year.

David's persistence, positive attitude, attention to detail and brilliant mind led him to be a well-respected leader in the field of Ecologically Sustainable Design. His simple approach to solving the problems of the world and innate ability to translate these learnings to his students and colleagues made him a mentor and inspiration to many, not the least the staff of SBE who aspire to achieve as much.



Vale Big D!

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APARTMENTS AT AIRLIE BANK LANE

SBE believes good Architecture should seek to improve the quality of living and working environments without diminishing earth's resources for future generations.

Despite site and heritage challenges this low rise multi residential development on Airlie Bank Lane has managed to intertwine architectural, conservation and sustainable design imperatives in a well resolved solution.

The building's Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) initiatives include:



Energy

- All apartments are 6-star energy rated – well exceeding the required 3-star minimum & 5-star average. They have achieved this with a combination of shading, concrete construction providing thermal mass, increased insulation and high thermal performance glazing.
- Estimated average energy used per apartment is 132 MJ / m² / year
- Gas boosted solar water heating will be provided; each apartment has a rooftop panel.
- Energy efficient lighting – Fluorescents and LEDs
- 12-panel photovoltaic grid system that provides most of the electricity for the common facilities.
- Maximised daylighting with external planted screens and shading.

Water

- Water efficient appliances and fittings.
- Rainwater collection for irrigation and toilet-flushing.
- Average water saved per apartment is 18,000 Litres / year
- Individual greywater recycling systems under consideration for ground floor units.
- Bioretention swale in the landscaping to help treat stormwater runoff.

Materials

- Greenlist and GECA (Good Environmental Choice Australia) listed materials will be selected for the floors, walls, windows and roof.
- Greenlist and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified timber will be selected for all timber elements.

Indoor Environment Quality (IEQ)

- Internal materials and finishes that have low or no Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) emissions will be specified.
- The Carpark mechanical ventilation system will be controlled by CO₂ sensors enabling the system to turn down or off when not required – saves electricity while maintaining access to fresh air.
- Internal and external noise levels will be considered during architectural design, services design and material selection process for apartments.

FUNDING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

Various Government agencies are providing funding to encourage ecologically positive outcomes in the property development sector. One such initiative is the Smart Energy Zones* program by Sustainability Victoria.



Following on from a successful program in 2007, Sustainability Victoria has allocated a further \$1.75 million to the program for more projects this year. Up to 25% of the total project costs, capped at approximately \$750,000, are available where developments achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by combining energy supply and demand measures. Projects must incorporate multiple buildings and/or sites and construction should begin mid next year.

Applications are to be submitted to Sustainability Victoria by Friday 12th December 2008, 4pm.

Should you have an interest in this or any other environmental funding program Sustainable Built Environments (SBE) can provide support in the preparation and submission of your application.

Please don't hesitate to contact us on (03) 9670 9820.

[* Smart Energy Zones](#)

NEW SBE TEAM MEMBERS

Despite short term concerns over the global economic situation Ecologically Sustainable Design is more important than ever. The built environment sector provides us with a significant opportunity to reduce our environmental impact and to respond positively to the threat of Climate Change.



SBE continues to grow and has recently appointed two new staff members:

Pratik Shah joined our Sydney office in August. He holds degrees in Architecture, Sustainable Design and Building. He believes in a holistic 'cradle to cradle' approach to a building's design and the selection of its components. He is convinced that with an innovative integration of architectural details and engineering services the ecological footprint of the built environment can be substantially reduced.

Dr. Nurul Murad joined the Melbourne office in September. Dr. Murad has been involved in providing ESD advice and computer modelling expertise for a range of new buildings, fit-outs and refurbishments, including commercial, residential, education, aged care, community and public buildings. He holds a PhD in Computational Fluid Dynamics.

Dr. Murad has a strong technical background in research, having previously worked extensively for Swinburne University Australia as an associate lecturer and researcher in the field of computational fluid dynamics, aero-acoustics and thermal modelling.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Pratik and Nurul to the SBE team.

SPEAKING OF SUSTAINABILITY

Melbourne was fortunate to host the World Sustainable Building Conference SB08 in September.



This event saw "the gathering of the world's leading technical

experts and researchers on sustainable built environments" (from the SV Resource Smart website). Out of the 350 papers delivered for the conference, SBE had two papers accepted and peer reviewed by the SB08 technical committee, these were: Applying rating tools to develop an autonomous house and Sustainable Masterplanning and Ecotourism.

Jane Toner presented the Autonomous House paper at one of the SB08 sessions. Jane spoke about "Emerging conflicts in ESD" to the Building Disputes Practitioners Society (BDPS) and about "New solutions in ESD" to inspire the Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers, Australia (APESMA) at their Annual General Meeting.

Just over a year after the passing of SBE's founder, David Oppenheim, an "Oppy Memorial Session" was held at the recent Asia Pacific Regional International Solar Energy Society Conference at Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour (25th – 28th November 2008), which incorporated the 46th Australian and New Zealand Solar Energy Society (ANZSES) conference. David was a member of ANZSES from 1980 onwards, Victorian State President (1983 - 1988) and National Chairman (1989 - 1992). As a tribute to David's dedication to ANZSES, **Danielle McCartney** gave a presentation on two of SBE's projects that David was involved with; the Bairnsdale House in Victoria and the more recent University of Tasmania School of Architecture and Design in Launceston. Danielle and other presenters shared personal memories of David and his inspiring contribution to the ESD industry. In keeping with David's tendency to lead conference delegates astray over good food, good wine and discussion on everything ESD, Trevor Lee initiated a post-conference lunch with some of David's former colleagues and friends.

SPRING EQUINOX PARTY

Thanks to all who attended the SBE Spring Equinox Celebration last month.

For those who weren't able to come, we are sorry we missed you.

For everyone, we've posted a few [photos](#) of the night.

Enjoy!

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