



DESIGN MATTERS

With **TONY TROBE**

Ginninderry sustainability manager Jessica Stewart talks about The Link, a multi-purpose community and information facility located in Strathnairn, which will be open as part of Sustainable House Day on Sunday, September 16.

TT: What is Sustainable House Day?
JS: It's a national event run by the Alternative Technology Association every September. Home owners and community groups from around Australia open up their doors for the day, allowing the public to wander through and learn about how they have been designed, built or renovated with sustainability in mind.

TT: Sustainable House Day will be on Sunday, September 16 this year. Is the Ginninderry project team participating?
JS: Absolutely! It's an excellent initiative that we support wholeheartedly. We will be opening up our very own award-winning building, The Link, located in Ginninderry's first suburb, Strathnairn, between the hours of 10am and 4pm.

The Link was designed with sustainability at its core. This impressive piece of architecture includes over 20 sustainable features, including a large, solar PV system on the roof, battery storage, high recycled and reclaimed material content, large rain water tank and drought-tolerant gardens. During the day there will be self-guided tours, talks and demonstrations led by industry experts, partner builders and members from our very own project team. We will even have an electric vehicle demonstration to showcase electric cars, bikes and charging stations.



The Link, a multi-purpose community and information facility located in Strathnairn, Ginninderry.

(Visit Ginninderry.com to see which experts are attending, presentation times and download a map of The Link)

TT: Will there be any show and tell on Sunday?

JS: Yes definitely. We're very excited to have a variety of presentations lined-up for the day, including a discussion by Master Builders Association, in which our experts will provide an overview of the building process, choosing land, design, timing, budget, deciding on a builder and legalities, before opening the floor up to questions. Representatives from Stiebel Eltron will also be on hand to discuss heat pump hot water systems and how they can be linked to your solar PV system to make the most of the sun. An expert from Monier Roof Tiles will also give a presentation on solar roofing, the associated benefits and their impressive interlocking solar tiles.

All presentations will run for an hour at various times throughout the day. Visit our website for details.

TT: What is the most innovative exhibition that a visitor can have a sticky beak at?

JS: It's difficult to narrow it down to just one, as we've lots of interactive and engaging displays and presentations. But if I had to provide a top-three, I'd say the Monier Roof Tiles solar roof mock-up will be hard to miss! Monier will be building a demo roof inside The Link to showcase their solar roof tiles – a huge innovation in the world of building-integrated photovoltaics. From a practical perspective and for those with a green thumb, I'd also recommend stopping by the Ozbreed stand, where you'll be able to chat to the experts and view a range of native plants and turfs suitable for Canberra's climate.

TT: Who else will be there?

JS: A variety of experts will be attending on the day to educate, advocate and encourage sustainable living practices. In addition to those already mentioned, we'll also have a number of builders on hand to answer all of your design questions. Builders include Rawson Homes, McDonald Jones Homes and Ideal Building Solutions. ActewAGL Solar and Reposit Power will showcase the cutting edge in solar edge and demand management technology and the Frank Fenner Foundation will also be around in the morning to run ecology games for the kids. Members from the Ginninderry project team will also be available to offer advice and answer any questions throughout the day.

■ *Tony Trobe is director of the local practice TT Architecture. Is there a planning or design issue in Canberra you'd like to discuss? Email tonytrobe@ttarchitecture.com.au*

Canberra's Raize the Roof charity home on the market

With **LUCY BLADEN**

A vision almost 10 years in the making is about to become a reality for Danielle and Lincoln Dal Cortivo.

The pair are about to sell a house to raise funds for the Starlight Children's Foundation and SOS Children's Villages Botswana.

The siblings came up with their Raize the Roof project in 2009 after the death of childhood friends who had been helped by similar make-a-wish foundations, and a trip by Danielle to Africa.

The fruition of their dream is a three-bedroom house at 17 Clancy McKenna Crescent in Bonner, which is to go to auction on October 20, and which will be

open for inspection from this weekend.

"When I came back from Africa I knew I wanted to do something," says Danielle. She spoke to Lincoln, a builder, and the idea to build a house and donate the proceeds to charity was born.

"We came up with the idea of using the project as a fundraising multiplier, so every dollar in is three dollars out," she said. More than 350 Canberra businesses have volunteered or contributed towards the project.

"We wanted to have the project be about community, connection and contribution. It was about how we could get as many people involved and contributing to the project as possible."

"It took us three years before we could get access to land, and we ended up getting



Danielle and Lincoln Dal Cortivo.

a block through the government's land rent scheme," she said. "We didn't start construction on the house until 2015."

"The block is 654-square metres and the house has 241 square metres of living," said Lincoln.

"There are multiple entertaining areas, such as decks and courtyards. There is a

deck which captures the sun and it's got amazing views of Black Mountain Tower and the Brindabellas.

"It's a stunning home and it was really moving to see this idea we had so many years ago come to full fruition," she said.

Competitors in the Decorate for a Difference campaign have styled the house with furniture donated by Ikea.

"Decorate for a Difference is a Block-style competition where we will be crowning Canberra's best stylist," said Danielle.

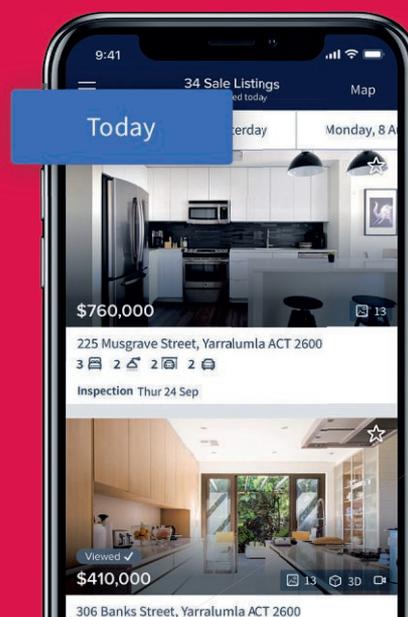
People can vote on the Decorate for a Difference website for their favourite section by donating money, with one dollar equalling one vote.

The house will be open for inspection every Saturday and Sunday from 10am-1pm.

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