



DISPLAY **Herald Sun** **homes**

CREATE THE ULTIMATE ALFRESCO ZONE, SAVE MONEY WITH GREEN LIVING AND GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR CUSTOM BUILD — ALL WITH THE HELP OF THE LATEST **DISPLAY HOMES** MAGAZINE

In this great new issue, we unveil the latest ways to make indoor-outdoor living a joy for you and your family, all year round. We explore how to make the most of the new display home energy ratings, and for those taking on a custom build, we tell you what to plan, what to ask and what to expect during the process.

This inspiring edition is jam-packed with trends in kitchens, entertaining, interiors and even laundries, to help you decorate your new home with flair.

Of course, as the only magazine resource for brand-new home buyers in Melbourne and surrounds, **Display Homes** is packed full of the best display homes from top builders. Captivating images, detailed floorplans and one-stop contact information make it an essential resource for homebuyers. There is something to suit every budget in this comprehensive guide, from first-homebuyers to extended families.

Issue 29 of **Display Homes** is now on sale and is just \$9.95. Pick up a copy at selected newsagents, visit heraldsunshop.com.au/shop or call 1300 306 107.

High resolution images and feature excerpts are available for publication.

Contact

Editor — Melinda Oliver

(03) 9292 1569, olivermel@newsltd.com.au



EDITORIAL EXCERPT — FROM 'DREAM A LITTLE GREEN', BY PENNY HARRISON, *DISPLAY HOMES*, ISSUE 29

Imagine a world where the living is comfortable, the air is clean and the energy bills don't send you running for cover. Guess what? It's not that hard to achieve. Sustainable housing has gone mainstream. All new houses are now legally required to meet the Victorian State Government's energy-efficiency standard of six-stars. However, the more you can do to make your house sustainable, the kinder it will be to the environment and in turn on your hip pocket.

Tanya Ha, TV presenter on ABC's Catalyst and author of environmental sustainability book *Greenology*, offers some great advice on making your home sustainable and how to save money as a result.

LOCATION, LOCATION

Sustainable building starts as soon as your search for a house and land does, and Ha says it's essential to find a perfect match.

"Some people fall in love with a design and then plonk it on any block, without thinking about how to take advantage of free heat and light from the sun," she says.

The block itself doesn't have to be north-facing. "You can have a north-facing living area on most blocks, but you need to check where your garage and driveway are. If possible, flip the house plan or perhaps shift the driveway," she says.

COMFORT ZONE

A blend of large, north-facing windows to capture winter sun and well-placed eaves to block summer sun is crucial for energy efficiency. "Limit the amount of windows on the western side and keep this side for service areas," Ha says.

Ha recommends insulation in ceilings, walls and floors. And don't forget the windows, where much heat can be gained and lost. To keep cool in summer, clever placement of windows and doors will ensure cross-ventilation.

"Don't forget about fly-screens, or you'll be less inclined to use the windows.

"Also think about exterior shade. Verandas and pergolas make a big difference, while deciduous vines and trees have a cooling effect," she says.

Choose the most efficient heating and cooling system you can afford, as the investment should save you money in the future. Opt for a zone control system, so you can heat and cool different areas of your home as desired.

TREADING LIGHTLY

Sustainable flooring has stepped up in availability, with options including recycled and plantation timbers, concrete and biodegradable tiles. Even cork is cool again.

"Cork is a wonderful, sustainable and insulating material," Ha says. "Bamboo is another great alternative. And concrete works with north-facing windows to soak up and store warmth from the winter sun."

SWITCHED ON

Fluorescent or LED light-fittings are the way forward. LED lights consume a fraction of the energy of halogen lights.

"Downlights are great for kitchen benchtops or feature areas, but resist the temptation to put them everywhere. You might need eight downlights in an area where one pendant will do. And you can have lots of fun with lightshades," says Ha.

HELLO SUNSHINE

Harness the sun to generate clean electricity for your entire home. Solar gas hot-water systems are already common features in new homes, but check with your builder if your home is suitable for solar panels.