



Looking For Inspiration For Your Own Sustainable 'Cost Saving' Family Home?

Where in Toowoomba do you go when you want real advice about building a genuinely sustainable home — with just a 'normal' home-building budget, not a stratospheric one?

Many in the building industry still can't seem to get their heads around what it means to build a sustainable home. But we find those who choose to come to us are not only already pretty savvy about sustainability, they're also determined.

They're not fooled by inflated energy ratings where, in Queensland for example, you get an extra energy star instantly added just by installing fans. Meaningless if your goal is to save money.

Saving money is one of the major drawcards for building a sustainable family home. Let's forget for the moment lofty goals like saving the planet.

The Satori is our city's first 9 star display home...

It can cut daily energy usage to about 32% of what a normal home uses.

If you're good with maths, you could work out what your own yearly saving would be. If you tipped even just some of those savings into your mortgage, how drastically would you cut down your loan time?

Most normal homes struggle to achieve a 6 star rating, averaging 3 or 4 stars, but even our standard 8 star homes are no more expensive to build. For us, it's just common sense, and we wouldn't — and couldn't — build any other way.

In this 9 star display home we've included everything we know about sustainability and energy efficiency, and then added another dimension that will be important to all of us as we get older — *adaptability*.

Together, we're going to 'build' a sustainable home

Over this coming year, each month we are going to talk about how to construct a cost-saving, sustainable family home — starting next month with the very first basics — the right block of land. Of course you can build an excellent sustainable home on any allotment, but some blocks will help, and some will hinder.

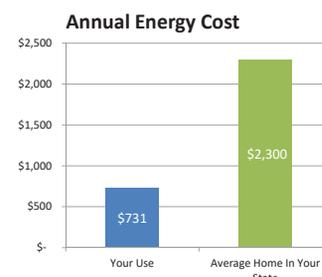
In each month's edition of Style Magazine, we'll go a step further and 'build' the home starting with the plans and orientation on the block, so you can see where and how sustainability can be easily and very cost-effectively built in — literally from the ground up.

Too many people still think that having a home that actually helps you save money on heating and cooling is expensive to build. We'll show you how we do it and why. It will also give you a valuable insight into what really goes on in building a home.

— Geoff Gibson



Economix Indicator results for the Satori 9 Star home.



Look for this column in next month's Style... we'll be talking about what to look for when choosing the right block of ground, and how to maximise your house plan on it.

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