

29th May 2012

To Whom It May Concern,

In 2010 my husband and I brought a block of land in Suffolk Park, it was a slightly unusual shape but it's main draw card was that it had a northerly aspect. So started the long journey of building our own home.

First stop was signing up for Dave Lawrence's 'Solar Passive Designs for the Sub-tropics' course through ACE. I thought this would give me the tools to make adjustments to a project home design for our future home. However, I quickly realised that if I was going to build a truly solar passive house, rather than amend & change an existing design I should start from scratch and design one that would meet all our needs & expectations. However budget constraints meant an architect was out of the question.

Having completed Dave's course I realised that he not only had the skills & knowledge but also an incredible passion & energy for solar passive homes. Being a draftsman he also could design me a house we could actually afford to build.

Under Dave's guidance I drew up my requirement & wish list for the house and he set about drafting it. Of course I wanted it all, a modern house with all the trimmings but I certainly didn't have a million dollar budget to do it! Working with Dave was an amazing experience, he came up with a fantastic design that met all our family needs whilst keeping true to his solar passive ideals & my budget availability. He constantly surprised us with his thoughts & solutions to problems and I found we were constantly on the same page throughout the process.

Even once Dave's work was done and we were in building stage he was there to guide & advise me through the process. His advice was invaluable and certainly was one of the main reasons we were able to build to budget – no big blow outs on this project.

One year on I'm sitting in my wonderful home, the winter sun is beaming through my north facing clerestory windows warming up my entire living area. With the first rays of sun in the morning not a light is on throughout the whole house until the sun sets later that day. I sigh with contentment and know that these plus many other features of my home are solely down to Dave and his expertise.

I now drive around and look at how many houses have not been built with the environment taken into account. I believe that every home builder should have to complete one of Dave's courses or similar before embarking on the important journey of building a house.

Yours faithfully

Sorrell & Steve Millis
0418 472 892