

## Bridget Puska - BP Architects

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### November 2003

Bridget Puska - BP Architects is an award winning architectural consultancy which specializes in sustainable architecture. Our design approach integrates energy efficiency and climatic design with sustainable building products in the design of green building systems. Passive solar design is used to minimize the consumption of energy for artificial lighting, heating and cooling of a building. The outcome is a building system, which offers comfortable indoor air temperatures, natural day lighting, and smaller cooling and heating systems.

The ecoHome, Jacksons Hill, Sunbury, designed by BP Architects was the recent recipient of a Silver Medal at the Green Building Awards held at the NSW Royal Australian Institute of Architects. This home was also awarded the MBA (Master Builders Association) National Environment & Energy Building Efficiency Award for Housing – under \$300,000.00. The Annual gas bill for the family of 5 living in the ecoHome is \$160.00 and the Annual Electricity bill is \$240.00. Their water consumption has been reduced to ½ of the average family of this size through the use of water saving devices, rainwater collection & a grey water system.

As an ongoing commitment to the promotion of Sustainable Building Awareness/Education, BP architects have compiled sustainable building Information boards which are exhibited at the ecoHouse, St Kilda Botanical Gardens. Current projects include the design of 5+ star house energy efficient homes, straw bale dwelling and the energy efficient office retro-fit of an existing factory. As an architect that specializes in sustainable architecture my potential influence in the promotion and use of sustainable building practices and materials is greatly extended through my work practices and green building design.

A recent trip to some of the supercities of America has heightened my appreciation of some of the things that could be taken for granted in St Kilda the ease of accessibility for walking, the sea breezes, the diversity of bird life flocking to Albert Park Lake, the greening of our parklands, the quality of our produce.



Having experience the August, 2003 power outage in New York City first hand, my conviction to the design of green buildings has resonated in the importance of contributing towards a sustainable future.