



*Care of the Earth, Care of
People, Share the excess*

Permaculture Cairns
Empowering communities with sustainable solutions
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Media Release

Sustainable architecture featured workshop at APC10

Building with natural, local resources, creatively designed towards a mortgage-free home is the goal of a sustainable architecture workshop at the upcoming permaculture conference in September.

Irish architect and eco-builder Peter Cowman has been a regular visitor to Australia since 2007 and will be visiting the far north to run workshops on sustainable house design.

“House design offers immense scope for making positive change in our lives.

“If we ask ourselves the right questions about how we want to live and if we give honest answers to those questions, then it is a relatively easy matter to shape our homes to suit those aspirations,” said Mr Cowman.

“Homes like this do not have to cost a fortune. They can be simple and charming, made from locally available materials, integrated into an overall permaculture plan, and fun to live in.”

His system of house design and construction, which he calls ‘Living Architecture’, has been warmly received at the many workshops and talks he has delivered in Australia. He began teaching people how to design their own homes in 1989.

Discovering how simple house design might be, did not come naturally to the Irishman however.

“First I had to forget all I learned in university and then I had to learn how to design and build. It is the experience of working in 3 dimensions which awakens the natural architect inside all of us. Even if you only make a scale model of your dream home on the kitchen table, the thrill of home design can be experienced by anyone.”

Peter finds Australian eco-building stimulating and refreshing in contrast to the more conservative approach practiced in Europe.

‘The experience is a little like standing on one’s head - suddenly everything looks different. The sun is in the north at midday instead of the south and white ants are a constant preoccupation for natural builders!’

Mr Cowman is the director of the Living Architecture Centre. He teaches and lectures internationally.

Peter Cowman’s workshop is one of many events during the upcoming Australasian Permaculture Convergence, APC10 www.apc10.org

*Come meet the Permaculture Cairns gardeners who meet on the **3rd Tuesday of the month** from 6pm at the Saints Football Clubhouse, Monk Street, Manunda, opposite The Trinity Bay SHS's main entrance, Aumuller St. Everyone is welcome.*

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