

# Quality drives family business

## Brothers with a passion for a premium building experience

INNOVATIVE Building Projects (IBP) occupies an exclusive niche within the construction industry as a premium designer and builder of new homes, extensions, multi-unit developments and commercial projects.

"Our dedication to high-quality design and construction is paramount, whether we're working on low-budget projects or high-cost residences with complex technical specifications," says architect Dane Kasunic.

The family-run business was started by Dane and his father Miko in 2003, and is now run by Dane and his builder brother, Tommy.

"I think having an architect and a builder in the same package is a great proposition for our clients," Dane says.

"But it doesn't mean that clients have to utilise both. Clients can engage Innovative Architecture without being



Brothers Tommy and Dane Kasunic... "Having an architect and a builder in the same package is a great proposition for our clients," says Dane.

obliged to use us for building, and vice versa. We're very flexible and always work with the needs of our clients."



Kate from Innovative Building Projects shows Reds rugby player Anthony Faingaa the eight-star eco haus.



The display home at the Bonner Living Showcase, 7 Clay Street, Bonner.



## Welcome to the eight-star 'eco-haus' (that's right, eight stars!)

BROTHERS Dane and Tommy Kasunic have just completed a spectacular eight-star energy-rated home at the Bonner Living Showcase display village, near Gungahlin.

"Our 'eco-haus' on Clay Street really just shows what we can do," says Dane. "It's an example of the kind of thing that is possible."

"We design houses to suit any needs, and we always take into account the features of the site and our clients' budget to achieve the best sustainable result. Everything we build has sustainability in mind."

The "eco-haus" is eight-star rated – how did they achieve this?

"The house is oriented for solar gain, so we created large, north-facing windows to maximise light and warmth," says Dane. "The sun heats the raw materials – concrete floors and reversed brick-veneer walls – which make the house more efficient because the heat is trapped in the thermal mass."

Tommy says: "The concrete slab has underfloor

hydronic heating, and is also insulated around the edges to prevent the heat from escaping."

The vast windows are double-glazed, timber framed, with argon-filled "low E" glass so that the summer heat is kept out and winter warmth in, according to Dane.

"The sustainability of the home is a combination of the solar-passive design, construction techniques and use of materials," he says.

The house has no need for air-conditioning in summer either, because the thermal mass retains coolness as well as heat, and the high-level windows and interior courtyard provide cross-ventilation.

"That's 90 per cent of what the courtyard is for," explains Dane. "There has to be a limited width to the living areas, so when the windows are open,

the ceiling fans will move the breeze through the space. It can't be too big. The courtyard is a heat vacuum and sucks the hot air up and out. It's not just good to look at."

It's "the look" that poses the challenge in creating a sustainable home, according to Dane.

"The house is energy-efficient, but the difficulty is having it light-filled and a stylish, desirable place to live, too," he says.

Dane and Tommy have also installed a solar hot-water system, photovoltaic cells which feed energy back into the grid, fluorescent and LED lighting, which all reduce running costs.

And the kitchen is breathtaking, thanks to a gravity-defying floating work bench.

"That was done with lots of steelwork!" says Dane. "It's just about trying something different,

something that hasn't been done before.

"The floating cantilevered stairs are another cool feature. We didn't want the house to be just about energy-efficiency – it has to have the wow-factor, too."

IBP has recently launched a series of sustainable, affordable one-off house and land packages called Innovative Lite.

Dane is an award-winning architect with more than 10 years post-qualification experience, with particular focus on good design incorporating environmental sustainability. Tommy has six years of practical experience and is currently co-ordinating a multitude of projects.

"We are committed to understanding our clients' needs, working within realistic budgets and schedules," says Tommy. "Our buildings are constructed with the greatest attention to detail while ensuring the highest level of professional and personalised customer service throughout the process."

Innovative Building Projects, 47 Wentworth Avenue Kingston or [www.ibp.net.au](http://www.ibp.net.au). Call 6161 3635

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