



Above: The captivating exterior of the Arkhefield-designed family home at Portside (Photo: Arkhefield)



Above: Sunrise@1770's Sea Breeze, judged 'an absolute pearl ... on the most stunningly beautiful of coastal landscapes' by the RIAA awards committee (Photo: Aardvarc Architects)



Left: Ben Taylor came up from Adelaide to join Bligh Tanner in 2003. He is our expert in urban stormwater management and resource issues but his interests extend far wider into broader catchment management and healthy waterways.

Landmark building/Family home

An extraordinary new house on the river at Portside, Hamilton, by Arkhefield architects, presented significant engineering challenges to Bligh Tanner. While the materials and space were on a commercial development scale, the refinement of detail and slenderness of elements maintained a residential scale.

Designed to be a private family home yet attract attention for its interesting exterior, the house features off-form white concrete – a major part of the visual impact of the building.

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Sea Breeze is a regional winner

Sea Breeze at Sunrise@1770 has been named the Central Queensland Regional Building of the Year for 2007 by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. Described by Associate Professor Peter Skinner in the awards citation as a development that is 'immensely careful, sensitive and responsive,' the house was designed by Mike Hellen of Aardvarc Architects.

The stepping design induces natural ventilation, plus the house collects its own water, creates its own solar electricity (the surplus is redirected to the grid) and was created with absolute respect for the environment. Lightweight cladding matches surrounding native vegetation and allows the house to blend into its surroundings.

Bligh Tanner was responsible for the house's structural and civil detail design, hydraulic engineering, fire management and erosion and sediment control.

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Ben's got SWMM Power

BT civil engineer Ben Taylor is our expert in stormwater modelling; he knows his work is helping to create a water resource that enhances lives.

Ben encourages developers, authorities and communities to see stormwater in urban settings as a resource, particularly as a recreational amenity that allows people to interact with the environment.

'When I was young, I played in the local creek, catching yabbies and tadpoles,' he recalls. 'Little kids should have access to waterways even if they live in urban areas.'

Ben is an advanced user of XP SWMM.

'It's the most powerful urban hydrological and hydraulic modelling package I know of,' says Ben. 'It can also interface with GIS.'

Ben applies his SWMM power to undertake detailed analysis for expert reports on underperforming drainage systems, and for detailed design on a wide variety of projects.

Healthy waterways are not just a work interest for Ben. He is planning a canoe trip down the course of the Murray–Darling in winter 2007 to gain a greater understanding of the conflicting demands on that system and the impacts of the worst drought since records began.

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National honour for the Ecovillage

Bligh Tanner is pleased and proud to be associated with the Ecovillage at Currumbin, winner of the Urban Development Institute of Australia's National Award for Excellence in Sustainable Development.

- SUSTAINABLE LAND DEVELOPMENT
- BUILDING STRUCTURES
- INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT
- INFRASTRUCTURE MASTERPLANNING AND DESIGN
- SPECIAL STRUCTURES