

INTENSIFY

Autumn 10

**The art of
integration &
technology**

Holistic design
runs deep

Beautifully thinking homes • Living and breathing green • Recognising integration excellence

Contents

“Just as an architect or interior designer depends on a detailed understanding of the client, so too does the technology provider.”



It is refreshing to work in an industry where customisation is king and the voice of the customer is more than just heard, it is drawn upon and used as a critical piece of intelligence. A series of strategic questions are posed with a view to coaxing out the pieces of the puzzle that will ultimately provide an insight into the real needs of the client.

Going beyond simply aesthetics and lifestyle requirements, good consultation verges on a psychological assessment, revealing opportunities that the homeowner may not have even considered.

Just as an architect or interior designer depends on a detailed understanding of the client, so too does the technology provider.

And the similarities don't stop there. An architect or designer will bring together many different materials and finishes some blending, some contrasting, but all working together in accord to provide harmony and unity in the final design. Likewise, a system integrator will combine an array of technologies into a seamless, feature-rich, easy-to-use solution that brings tangible life style benefits to the homeowner.

In this edition of Intensify we will showcase some amazing projects that go beyond the call in delivering these outcomes. From Merewether with uninterrupted views of the NSW coastline, to a resort-inspired manor on the western fringe of Sydney. Then over to Nedlands in Perth where a new take on an old theme captures grace and light of homes gone by.

We'll also take a look at some award winning technology from Clipsal and while we're talking accolades, we'll see why C-Bus pointOne members took out over half of the categories at the annual CEDIA Electronic Lifestyle Awards.

And finally, we'll catch up with Adelaidian Architect Emilis Prelgauskas; a man who meets environmental challenges head-on, living and breathing the convictions of his beliefs in a manner that is both infectious and inspiring.

Enjoy!

Regards,
Simon Wehr
Marketing Manager – Residential
Clipsal



Published by Clipsal Communications (61 8) 8161 0511. Writer: Alex Beltrame. Designers: Michelle Capurso, Katrina Mutton, Delvene Tolbert, Tracey Hamilton. Production: Marthese Cauchi. Original design template: Indesign Group. Clipsal Australia Pty Ltd hereby disclaims, to the full extent permitted by law, all liability, damages, costs and expenses whatsoever arising from or in connection with copy information or other material appearing in this publication, any negligence of the publisher, or any person's actions in reliance thereon. Inclusion of any copy information or other material must not be taken as an endorsement by Clipsal Australia Pty Ltd. Views expressed by contributors are personal views and are not necessarily endorsed by Clipsal Australia Pty Ltd. The terms 'Clipsal', 'C-Bus' and 'pointOne' are registered trademarks. © Clipsal Australia Pty Ltd.

Printed carbon neutral. 100% FSC certified fibre. 50% FSC certified recycled (post consumer waste), 50% FSC certified fibre - sustainable forestry. ISO 14001 environmental management system in use at mill. M-real purchase renewable energy to manufacture Mega Recycled FSC.

Clipsal Australia Pty Ltd. A member of Schneider Electric. CLIPCOM 20170 February 2010



02 LIVING THE HIGH LIFE

A family residence designed to maximise every scenic opportunity available.



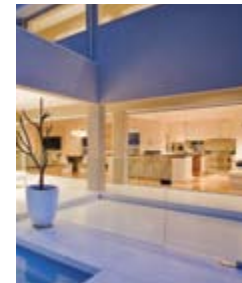
08 RECOGNISING INTEGRATION EXCELLENCE

Awards night recognises the excellence of integration professionals.



09 TOP HONOURS

Wiser home controller earns industry plaudits.



10 GRACE AND LIGHT

This Perth residence captures the grace and light of homes gone by, but is brimming with contemporary style.



16 MANOR FROM HEAVEN

Technology helps everything in this mansion run smoothly to schedule.



20 LIVING AND BREATHING GREEN

Emilis Prelgauskas practices what he preaches in every aspect of his life.

Living

the high life

WITH COMMANDING VIEWS OF NEWCASTLE AND SURROUNDING COASTAL AREAS, THE PETRELIS FAMILY RESIDENCE IN MEREWETHER WAS DESIGNED TO MAXIMISE EVERY SCENIC OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE. THIS CREATED AN UNORTHODOX LAYOUT AND DEMANDED AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO STREAMLINE THE HOME'S PLETHORA OF TECHNOLOGY.

Although the block dimensions are a very decent 18 metres wide, the Petrelis' contemporary flat roofed home only spans 14 of them. The reason for this was to create a Northern courtyard space away from the swimming pool for the family's five children to play in. This, coupled with the block's elevation and expansive use of glass on the upper level gives the distinct impression that you have arrived at an inner city townhouse.

Once inside, you realise that you are in a long and elongated home. Wall to wall tiles lead you to a suspended staircase positioned smack bang in the middle of the ground floor. The glass balustrade gives you a clue to what you can anticipate upstairs. Upstairs being the operative word as the ground level is dedicated totally to bedroom areas.

If you happen to be burdened with any shopping or baggage a lift will take you to the upper level which offers a main living area of some 400 square metres in size. It is only then that you realise you are in a large family home. Step outside onto the decking and you have uninterrupted views from the East to Northwest of Merewether beach.

On the same level is a separate outside patio and barbeque area overlooking a swimming pool and water feature, and once again with unhindered views of the bay.

Given the unique dichotomy of this home, it was a challenge for architect Stephen Nunan who worked closely with the client to achieve the desired outcome.

"The house was purposely designed to be narrow to accommodate both the views and family's needs. My concept was to create a circulation spine for all the individual rooms and living areas to feed off. The centralised staircase unites the two zones to facilitate quick and simple access from one point to the next. Then of course there's the lift as well.

"I like function and the use of natural light creates space and openness. I also designed the skylight positioned in the main living to avail the cooling sea breezes from the Northeast and exhaust the warm air."

In parallel to the home's circulation spine is the home automation system that similarly integrates and centralises control of all electrical services. And this home is brimming with technology including: air conditioning, irrigation, water feature,

“The centralised staircase unites the two zones to facilitate quick and simple access from one point to the next.”





pool control, heat pump, motorised louvers, automatic garage doors and motorised curtains. Then of course there is a security system, a dedicated home theatre room and a home office incorporating PABX phone system and intercom to add to the list.

With so much technology packed into the design brief, integration of the technology was a key requirement to simplify control. The client, a medical professional, was keen on C-Bus as one of the must have systems in the home based on its reliability and brand recognition.

The client directly engaged the services of systems integrators and C-Bus pointOne members, Automated Innovation.

“We were recommended to the client by word of mouth by another client they had spoken to, said Nathan Gill, the company’s Managing Director.

Nathan has 15 years experience in the electrical and home automation industries and has worked with C-Bus for almost the entirety of that time.

“We were able to offer the complete package with no subcontractors as all our staff are full time electricians, data cabling, security, MATV, audio visual and C-Bus programmers.

The owners had ideas about their requirements but were open to Nathan’s recommendations. The brief was to have a very simple but automated home covering all aspects of the house including: the blinds, air-conditioning and pool control. There was also a brief on the home having plenty of pre cabling put in to allow for more audio visual distribution to cater for any future needs.

The clients visited the Clipsal Powerhouse display centre in Sydney for some ideas and from there Automated Innovation were able to customise the design to suit the client’s requirements.

Nathan describes the project as being “a very customised one”.

“We came up with a C-Bus design using Switch Automation screens and RTI remote controls which proved a perfect solution to achieving the client’s outcome. The owner was very receptive to the ideas we were able to deliver in the home automation proposal. They wanted a total solution by one company and one system. All though there are multiple sub system components in the home the owners only needed to know that with a quick press of the button they can start up their home theatre, dim the lights, close the curtains and watch the movie.

“The husband was very passionate about having all the ‘toys’ in the house but his wife was a little hesitant until she was able to see it

“ I like function and the use of natural light creates space and openness. ”



all working and loves the ability to view the cameras on the touch screen or remotes.

A 15” touch screen located in the kitchen area, controls everything from the music track, air conditioning, pool, blinds to security, CCTV and lighting. Ten C-Bus DLT wall switches located around the home feature electronic labels that clearly indicate each function. This allows for simple and convenient control of lights and the many blinds that line the high windows.

There is a dedicated home theatre and even though there are many components, it is all controlled simply with the press of a single button.

Energy efficiency is an important criteria for all new homes in NSW in order to pass compulsory BASIX certification. So with more than 50 external lights installed in the Petrelis home, the owners opted for low energy LED lighting. C-Bus further maximised efficiencies by automatically turning lights on and off.

Even the pool controller gets in on the environmental act with pump, water feature and heating controlled by time schedules or manually via a touch screen.

“They tell me they have the best automated home anyone could ever dream of and that the home theatre is the icing on the cake.”



Architect / Stephen Jolson
C-Bus pointOne Member / Automated Innovation



The security system is also interfaced, turning off lights when armed and in the event of a smoke alarm activating at night, it will turn on the lights and notify the owners via the audio system in the home.

According to Nathan the client is using the home to its full potential.

“The owners love the security integration of CCTV on the Switch Integration panel and the fact that when it is time for bed they can press a button on their DLT in the master bedroom that shuts down all the lights in the house. Being able to control the pool and heating from the personal schedule timers

makes it easier for the owner to change without a service call. They tell me that they have the best automated home anyone could ever dream of and that the home theatre is the icing on the cake.

Naturally, there has been fine tuning along the way as the home owner thinks of extra features they would like implemented, but this too has its advantages.

“There have been minor changes to the C-Bus switch controls but this is a very simple job to undertake especially when the owner makes you a great coffee every time you visit.” @

Recognising integration excellence



Nathan Gill, Managing Director, Automated Innovation, centre of pic, celebrates his Best Commercial Project.



Glenn McJannett (Jory Home Systems) Winner – Best Integrated Installation under \$150,000.

C-BUS POINTONE MEMBERS HAVE BEEN AWARDED A PROLIFIC NUMBER OF AWARDS AT THE 2009 CEDIA ELECTRONIC LIFESTYLES AWARDS.

Held at Doltone House, Pyrmont on July 16, the CEDIA Awards recognize and promote high quality system design, installation and integration within the custom electronic automation industry. The awards are open to all CEDIA Electronic Professional (ESP) Members. Entries were judged by a panel of industry experts.

Glenn McJannett of Jory Homes was judged winner in the best integrated home installation under \$150 000 while Nathan Gill of Automated Innovation was announced Winner for Best Commercial project.

There were also a number of ‘Highly Commended’ awards given, including Michael Stavrou and Sam Balcket of Auztech Industries.

Simon Wehr described the success of C-Bus pointOne members as a “great result and recognition that the members are part of a special group, the best of the best.”

During the evening guest judge, Utz Baldwin CEO of CEDIA (USA) said to Simon Wehr in conversation that, “The C-Bus projects submitted were amazing and that the quality of installation work was second to none.”

Stephen Miller, Executive Director of CEDIA commented, “The success of C-Bus pointOne members is a great recognition of the installers and their ability to deliver ultimate solutions to clients.”@

Top honours

CLIPSAL C-BUS WISER HAS SCORED A MAJOR AWARD AT THE 2010 SOUND+IMAGE AWARDS DINNER, TAKING OUT TOP HONOURS FOR “SYSTEM CONTROLLER OF THE YEAR.”



The black tie dinner was held at the Star Room in Darling Harbour on November 3 with more than 1500 guests comprising all sectors of the AV and home theatre industries. Wiser was successful against very strong competition in this category including the Apple iPod touch and RTI T1-B universal remote control.

Since their inception in 1989, the annual Sound & Image Awards have recognised excellence in the design, manufacture and installation of home entertainment equipment.

“Our awards for the Custom Installation category recognises neat products and new ideas that would normally be used in a smart-home environment,” said Jez Ford, editor of Sound & Image magazine.

“This applies to an integrated home which has a control system over all your AV equipment, potentially distributed audio and video, lighting, climate control, security and more. Given the complexity of such systems and the potential confusion to the average user, the control device in charge of all these operations becomes all important. Clipsal has ticked all the boxes with its Wiser family of products introduced to join the C-Bus family.”

C-Bus Wiser provides seamless control of different technologies in the home including lighting, music, home cinema, air-conditioning, sprinkler systems, curtains and more. Why it’s clever is that it enables you to use the same graphical interface and icons to control this technology with your touchscreens, mobile phone laptop and more. This makes it very easy to control those home technologies.

“With its easy scheduling of regular timed operations and macro operations, Clipsal Wiser provides a platform with endless possibilities and the potential to become an industry standard. It’s a good thing.”@

Grace *and light*

MORE THAN A NEW TAKE ON AN OLD THEME, THIS RESIDENCE IN NEDLANDS, PERTH CAPTURES THE GRACE AND LIGHT OF HOMES GONE BY, BUT IS BRIMMING WITH CONTEMPORARY STYLE AND THE VERY LATEST IN TECHNOLOGY TO MATCH.

There's just a feeling of peace and calm that pervades this house," said the architect responsible for this elegant residence.

The combination of space, high ceilings, generous sized rooms, extensive verandahs and north facing aspect along the poolside of the house creates something unique.

In spite of being a double storey home, it is an exercise in understatement. The neutral schemes, white Colorbond roof and extensive return verandah exude great warmth. It's a period design using the materials and finish of today, a remarkable achievement.

Regarding the interior, the clients, a professional couple with a family of three boys, simply wanted rooms with generous spaces.

"From my point of view, as the designer, this was easily accommodated as the client didn't request a superfluity of separate spaces," said the architect.

Stepping into the house through a giant French door, you're greeted with an expansive wooden floor, polished to the hilt that continues along each step of the staircase, the bottom two steps of which wrap around the base of the stairwell in a full 180 degrees, literally beckoning you to scale them to what the architect describes as the gallery and upstairs balcony.

Guiding you along the way are a series of LED marker lights that not only give you a focal point but accent how beautiful the timber is, that is until you notice the elegant lighting fixtures.

"I take lighting into consideration throughout the design process and believe that good lighting design can be both

functional and aesthetic: highlighting spaces and focusing attention while creating an ambience both internally and externally," says the architect."

The clients also put a lot of thought into lighting as well, choosing the right fitting to match the idea and theme in each room. This is best exemplified in the "Happy Days" booth, so christened by builder, Cam Wilkie of Cambuild, to describe the U-shaped diner bench. Here the owners have used a chrome sphere fitting in total contrast to the square downlights employed in the adjacent kitchen area to create a mini café in the heart of the main living area.

At night, the home is a triumph. There are no curtains to extinguish the radiance of the lighting. Instead, it glows like a Pacific Island resort, particularly when looking at the mirror reflection of the half Olympic sized lap pool.

Implementing the right audio visual systems was another priority for the clients who were looking for a totally integrated installation with recessed cabling and multi room audio. After discussions with the architect, she referred them to AV specialists and systems integrators, Surround Custom.

"I believe in using the services of a specialist. I knew of Surround Custom and actually went with the clients to meet them at their working display home in Nedlands. We weren't disappointed. In fact we were amazed by the technology and the sophistication you can achieve when so configured. The glass Saturn switches were also a very good fit for the interior design fit-out."

"The client initially came in seeking some audio visual equipment and information for





their new home design construction," said Sol Marrington, Director of Surround Custom.

"We got talking at length and in collaboration with the builder, developed a client brief covering full C-Bus home automation, structured cabling, security, communications and audio visual requirements."

"The client accepted our recommendations and working with the architect, made sure everything fitted together yet was in keeping with this traditional home with a contemporary twist. We'd also had previous dealings with builder, Cam Wilkie, so he was familiar with our work ethic and style."

The project was a healthy mix of core and sub systems that Surround Custom provide for these type of projects.

"The home has the right mix that we have found works for us and our clients. Our core driving factors in putting any holistic design

together is, it must be simple to use, save time, provide security, be reliable, flexible and of course entertain!"

With the home spread out over a large site and with a stunning entertainment area with integrated swimming pool, the C-Bus system was designed to allow control of one-touch modes for setting the right mood. In addition, linking with the Ness M1 security system has provided seamless integration benefits. If the alarm goes off for example, all exterior lights switch on to ward off intruders. Amongst the various modes are 'away' settings whereby the home has a lived in look if the full security is armed.

Saturn switches with a centralised Colour C-Touch screen are located in the kitchen area. In addition to one touch modes, garden lighting can be activated as well as floor heating and towel rails.

“ It must be simple to use, save time, provide security, be reliable, flexible and of course entertain! ”



“ It is kind of revealing for them once they have actually moved in and generally then the penny drops as to what you truly can do. ”



Architect / Fiona Robson
 C-Bus pointOne Member / Surround Custom
 Builder / Cambuild

“Scheduling of these is programmed seasonally via the astronomical clock on C-Touch means we can have them turn on and off at various times of the year. Even when the home is vacated, these will not turn on. This saves quite an amount of electricity.”

As is often the case, despite a fairly healthy education process on the way through, many clients don't know what they quite have until they have it.

“It is kind of revealing for them once they have actually moved in and generally then the penny drops as to what you truly can do. They get quite enthusiastic about assisting us in creating one-touch moods or scenes for them.

“We've found in our experience that you can't put the icing on the cake (final programming) until this point in time generally. Whilst all the best efforts of the architect, designers, builder and ourselves included trying to vision ourselves how things would work for us in that home, only the owners will understand how they evolve into the home, and this takes time. Plus it's a good opportunity as we do this at night time, to enjoy a bottle of red with the client after the project.

“I can tell you later in the evening after a few glasses that the one-touch lighting modes in the home become a little crazier.” @

Manor

from heaven

INSPIRED BY THE LUXURIOUS HOLIDAY RESORTS FOUND IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS OF NSW, THIS MAGNIFICENT 1400SQ METRE MANSION IS LOCATED ON THE WESTERN FRINGE OF SYDNEY ON A SPRAWLING 3.2 HECTARE SITE. LIKE THE RESORTS IT IS MODELED ON, IT OFFERS EVERY CREATURE COMFORT IMAGINABLE.

A great home starts with a brief and a great plan. In this case, provided by super premium boutique builder, Chateau Constructions.

“When we meet a client we have a unique approach, said Carolyn Foxton, Council Liaison Officer, Chateau Homes.

“We talk about their favourite holiday destinations. Places they’ve enjoyed staying. We look at clippings and photos. We bring out the imagination and artistic side of our clients.”

In this instance it was the influence of a resort in the Southern Highlands which featured elegant and classic architecture, coupled with a series of landscaped gardens and water features. With this residence, the result was an Australian Colonial style home, u-shaped in its configuration featuring long return verandahs, large format windows and columns.

In addition, the owners wanted a big family home with sufficient space to entertain large numbers of guests with the provision for them to stay any length of time as they might do in a holiday resort.



“The lighting design is something special and creates the resort style mood that the owners wanted to achieve.”



The kitchen overlooks what is arguably the centrepiece of the estate. And that is the centrally located 24 x 12 metre heated pool and 16 jet spa. Adjacent is a cabana complete with sauna and gym. Then there is an ornamental lake in the distance, lawns and gardens framed with box hedges.

The lighting design at night is something special and creates the resort style mood that the owners wanted to achieve.

Entertainment and technology has not been overlooked. A four row mini-cinema has been created to seat 20 people while the entire home is monitored by a computerised network of security cameras.

“The home is a crystallisation of all that we like to do on a rural property with the

freedom and space to design without the usual restrictions you would encounter in smaller metropolitan sized blocks, says Carolyn.

“Regarding the home’s electrical services and home automation needs, the installation was seamless and friendly but we find that this happens on every project.”

Distinctive Gardens & Interiors Director, Dean Boone said that his company has been engaged in the project for over four years, right through the construction stage and well after the owners moved in, mainly to complete the landscaping.

Dean said that the power needs for the site were massive and that the infrastructure planning of the site was a challenge. It required a control system to streamline the home’s lighting and electrical services.

“Most high end residential homes I’m involved in have a C-Bus system to control all of the home’s lighting and electrical services. The client was very keen to have C-Bus home automation to control every element within the site. We met with C-Bus consultants on several occasions before undertaking any planning or installation. The aim was to create a responsive and adaptive system to the client’s needs now and into the future.

Dean and the client assigned C-Bus pointOne member, Mick Lavery of One Touch Systems Integrators to undertake the technology installation and programming for the residence.

Planning for this was a key component of the design works as some landscape elements, such as the ornamental lake with water jets and pump system, were installed before the



house was constructed and consideration for the long term goal was always at the forefront of the design.

In addition there was scheduling of pool heating, cleaning, floor heating, heating towel rails, lighting all offs at preset times etc helping manage power consumption to contend with.

According to Mick, the pool would “nearly be impossible” to manage without a control system.

“There are around 15-20 schedules that run daily to maintain the pool including heating, cleaning, lighting and spa jets.

“Driveway lighting has also been integrated to the gate controller. When the gate has been opened via the remote control at night, the 500m driveway is lit up along with the front of the house to light the way.”

Considering the length of the project, Distinctive Gardens and Interiors worked very closely with One Touch.

“I cannot recall how many meetings we had, with the client, on site post installation and in our office reviewing all the different elements of the design, said Dean.

The owners are very satisfied with the C-Bus systems and how it has enhanced the home.

“Putting it simply, they love it,” says Dean.

“It can all be managed from one central point in the home and can also be accessed in key locations over the site. I don’t think a home like this could be maintained and used so easily without C-Bus. For the past and present owners, it was not just a product with great applications but something that contributes to their lifestyle. It quietly runs the home while they sit back and relax. @



Architect & Construction / Chateau Homes
C-Bus pointOne Member / One Touch Systems Integrators
Landscaping & Interior / Distinctive Gardens & Interiors

Living *and breathing* green

EMILIS PRELGAUSKAS WAS GREEN BEFORE GREEN WAS INVENTED. HE PRACTICES WHAT HE PREACHES NOT ONLY IN HIS COMMERCIAL LIFE BUT IN THE WAY HE CHOOSES TO LIVE AND THE HOBBIES THAT HE PURSUES WITH UNWAVERING PASSION.

Emilis' new house that he is building in idyllic Cherry Gardens in the Southern Adelaide Hills cannot be seen from the main road. Fortunately it is a typically beautiful Adelaide day and I am grateful that I am not meeting Emilis at night for I would undoubtedly have driven past the entrance many more times.

Eventually as I negotiate the steep drive, the house's opposing 45 degree slanted rooflines come into view. The house a combination of salmon coloured render and silver Colorbond® roofing, cladding and beams arrest me before I have even turned the ignition off. I don't even notice Emilis perched on the entrance doorstep waiting for my arrival. He walks up the drive to meet me halfway. He looks and speaks like a university professor but there is no academic stoop and for a tall man he is sure footed in the way he traverses the rocky driveway and obstacles at what is clearly a construction site. He is an energetic 60 year old.

"It's (the house) been a three year project so far. My partner Rachel and I come here every Friday to work on it. We have another year to go."

Inside, the main living area is wall to wall Hebel®. The rooms are angled and the ceiling goes up to five metres at its highest pitch. To my left is a mezzanine floor where a ventilation tower is recessed. It comprises of filters made from Aspen timber shavings that are constantly kept moist with drippers. This

tower captures the cross winds, funneling the moistened air into the house like an evaporative system which Emilis says cools the house down by as much as 11 degrees.

And though the floor of the main living area is made of concrete, below the suspended slab are five bladders storing 20,000 litres of rainwater to dissipate the thermal mass in the foundation. Gravity takes care of excess water which is stored in three 30,000 litre tanks further down the valley. Solar panels, yet to be added, will drive the home's lighting requirements in the form of 12 volt LED downlights.

Every wall, every window and every roof angle has a purpose; to harness light, to harvest rain and to channel cool breezes. Everything is considered, which is the way it has always been for Emilis since the very beginning. His parents migrated from Lithuania to Australia in 1949 to start a better life. Both were tertiary educated academics in Vilnius. His father became a mechanic in Australia while his mother became a librarian.

"Post Second World War, materials were in short supply. My dad would grab anything he could including shipping crates. He would even reshape the nails for use. Nothing went to waste and those were the values instilled in me."

Of his university days Emilis describes himself as quiet and understated. Although he was already thinking sustainability, he felt he had to understand the system before he could change it.



Image courtesy of Internode

“ There are always limitations for every design but limitations are good... ”

“ Good design should utilise the nearby and readily available materials. ”

After a brief stint working for a private architect, Emilis joined Woodhead where he learned about the processes, goals and outcomes involved with major commercial projects. After eight years with the leviathan organisation and seven years as a Senior Architect with Community Projects, Emilis was appointed as Principal Architect for the City of Adelaide Council in 1986 under the reign of Jim Jarvis. Here, he experienced the politics of working for the council, which fiercely protects the city's architectural heritage.

“I've been fortunate that I have worked at many and varying levels of architecture. It's given me a great empathy with people that I deal with. I understand why people get frustrated and why they object to ideas.”

In 1988 Adelaide University beckoned, providing Emilis with a new opportunity to preach his sustainability messages to a new generation as a visiting lecturer.

In the same year Emilis decided that it wasn't enough to talk about sustainability. But that he had to “walk the walk”. He started his own practice with the advice from his peers that he would starve. For his own lifestyle Emilis had already chosen a section of remote land in Monarto, a one hour drive South East of Adelaide, to prove that he could design and live in a self-sufficient and energy smart home.

Most of Emilis' residential clients tend to fall into two categories. The first are close to retirement and are looking at changing their lifestyles to minimise their dependencies on services supplied by utilities providers so that

they can afford to travel and do other things with their lives.

The second type of clients come to him with a view that they can see society in trouble and want to create a good stable base and do the right thing.

“There are always limitations for every design but limitations are good. I have clients who want to build a straw bale house and build it themselves to feel a sense of ownership and custodianship.”

Emilis also analyses carbon credits at the domestic level.

“Good design should utilise the nearby and readily available materials and consider the costs of transporting the materials from thousands of miles away. This is not always practical or convenient but there is a cost to society for the designs we make.”

In 1998 Banrock Station was a landmark project for Emilis and one of his proudest commercial achievements.

“We were fortunate in having a client, BRL Hardy, that wanted to show the world that the redeveloped vineyard it was creating was operating on strong environmental principles. They wanted a cellar door and restaurant to reflect this. The architect Richard Stafford was young, a former student of mine and he called upon me to assist, mentor and contribute detail to the design to ensure that every letter of the brief was met.”

Stafford's design featured curved ceilings, high open spaces, climate responsive air circulation, rammed earth and solar power, the building's structure is inserted into the



Images courtesy of Banrock Station



“What’s important here is that the tenants are totally cognisant to the design of the building...”



The Tesla electric powered sports car used by Simon Hackett and Emilis to achieve a record distance on a single charge.

Image courtesy of Internode.



undulating landform to live and breathe the conservation ethos.

“What’s important here is that the tenants are totally cognisant to the design of the building. They know how to operate it so that it runs as a self sufficient and sustainable building.”

Emilis also works with other architects such as Max Pritchard to advise on energy efficiency aspects and to validate their own energy smart designs.

“Emilis was green before it became fashionable,” says Max. “He has many years of experience and knowledge. I consult Emilis on virtually all my projects. He assesses and advises on measures to make them more energy efficient.”

Externally, Emilis’ homes have similar shapes; facing the sun to harness the light, angular roofs to harvest the rain, minimalist finish and exposed steel beams to show which beams are carrying the bulk.

“My homes are recognisable. Conversely the peers in my market segment will have different approaches; curved roofs, rammed earth and so forth.”

Emilis’ projects have won some important awards including the Francis Greenway Society Award for R&D and Small Business Eco-Efficiency Award from the Environmental Protection Agency, to name a few. He says these help when dealing with

people. “I do feel as though my ideas have been validated.”

When asked about C-Bus, Emilis sees home automation as a control mechanism. Though he is yet to specify a system in his own projects he can see the energy saving merits if so programmed. “Most barriers are in our head.”

Another area Emilis is passionate about, yet consistent with his preserving the environment ethos is gliding. He has been a founding member of numerous clubs since the 1970s.

It was through gliding that Emilis forged a strong friendship with IT entrepreneur and Internode principal, Simon Hackett. This led to a world record attempt in a Tesla electric powered sports car from Adelaide to Darwin. The duo managing to achieve a record distance of 501 kms on a single charge.

“All of these things reflect the way I live. At times I think it’s too late to try and change things and that no one is listening, but I keep punching on.”

Emilis’ house vanishes in my rear view mirror as I rejoin the main road and the world that I had forgotten for two hours. Ideas are raining on the box that is my head. It now has a slanted roof to collect all the ideas inside. Emilis’ house and footprint may well disappear but his vision and life’s work will never stop walking the walk. @

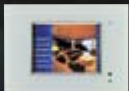
MORE OF A LIFE SWITCH THAN A
LIGHT SWITCH



It's a light switch. It's a dimmer. It welcomes you home and shuts everything off as you leave. It controls your home's temperature, plays music

in any room of your home – all at the touch of a button or remote control. C-Bus home control; for your new home or the one you're in now.

Start with a simple system and add to it as your needs change. Start your life switch today. Visit www.clipsal.com for more information.



C-Bus
pointOne™

c-buspointone.com.au

CLIPSAL®

by Schneider Electric