

Greener (Sustainable) House Design

Have you ever wanted to design and build your own natural home using sustainable building materials and practices? In today's world, building codes and the expense of building can make that a daunting challenge. This workshop will get you started on the path to accomplishing that dream, by examining the process that enables a building to go from an idea to a reality.

Students will begin the day with a discussion of what is sustainable and attainable in today's building industry followed by a chance to work on design development and planning with a hands-on approach in the afternoon. Participants are invited to bring along any work they may already have started on their dream home, or for those who are just beginning, a design scenario will be provided.

Co-ordinator: Dale Brownson

Dale Brownson has been designing straw bale homes for the past seven years, following a life of working in the building industry as a carpenter, cabinetmaker and designer. The priority of his work is to spread the word about sustainable building practices and facilitate their use in today's complex building industry, as well as to nurture the development of creative approaches to building and living. He has now completed plans for fifty straw bale homes (including the Nolalu Eco Centre) and continues to face the challenges inherent in the use of sustainable building practices today. Dale has also been a practicing artist throughout his life and will continue to create and exhibit art for the rest of his days on this planet, hopefully combining this with natural building design at every opportunity.