

green houses

CATHERINE BAUER

Terms such as “sustainable” and “architect-designed” are not often associated with housing developments but a collaboration between one of South Australia’s pre-eminent architects and a leading home builder looks set to result in a more “green” approach.

The housing project involving architect Max Pritchard and the Hickinbotham Group, one of four builders involved in the redevelopment of Lochiel Park, at Campbelltown, is already creating interest in the marketplace and many designs have sold off the plan.

Max has designed the homes to be built on 18 allotments as part of the Land Management Corporation’s environmentally sustainable housing development at Lochiel Park.

The project has been coordinated under Hickinbotham’s Charterhouse project, a division of the company set up to offer individual architect-designed homes at competitive prices.

“I like the idea of promoting better and more sustainable design and this can be used as a showcase to show what can be done in this environment rather than just siting a house right in the middle of a rectangular block,” Max explains.

“My designs are all two storey, they are oriented on the block to maximise the sun in different seasons and they revolve around a courtyard/outdoor living space that relates very much to the interior spaces.”

Max’s Green House 2 design features three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a large central kitchen, curved glass wall and two-storey atrium, filling the home with natural light.

Hickinbotham’s design director, Ruth Vagnarelli, says the “innovative and stylish design offers environmental benefits without any sacrifices”.

“On the strength of Max’s design and our quality construction and competitive pricing we have already sold designs off the plan,” she says.

“We like Max’s unique style and the way he understands good design in creating beautiful living environments.

“We’re a good team. Max offers architectural flair combined with practical design solutions, yet he also understands the importance of designing homes to a budget.

“As the largest builder in the state, we have great buying power and understand cost-effective construction.”

As part of the Charterhouse project there are plans for further collaboration with other Max Pritchard-designed homes at Victor Harbor, Blackwood Park and Northgate.

He has also been engaged to design houses for the 600-home Mannum Waters development, including waterfront housing.



Ruth Vagnarelli of Hickinbotham and architect Max Pritchard discuss their plans for environmentally sustainable housing at Lochiel Park at Campbelltown.