

MEDIA RELEASE

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ADELAIDE BUILDER WINS NATIONAL AWARD FOR ``GREEN`` HOMES

Energy efficient homes are the way of the future, says Adelaide builder Paul Craig, who this month beat a national field to be awarded Master Builders Australia's highest accolade for environmentally-sustainable housing.

Paul Craig Building received the National Environment and Energy Efficiency Building Award – Housing Project - at the association's National Awards for Excellence in Building held at the Gold Coast Convention Centre on Saturday, November 10.

``It's great to see awards recognising energy-efficiency in building because it is such an important way that we, as a community, can reduce energy use and environmental harm,`` Mr Craig said.

``For too long, Adelaide homes have been modelled on European designs, which tend to be cold and dark in winter and heat traps in summer.

``As the price of electricity and gas continues to rise, energy-efficient house design will become more and more important, particularly to those on a fixed income.``

Mr Craig said it was essential to get the fundamentals right - such as orientation, shading and ventilation – to ensure a home was truly environmentally friendly.

``Comfortable homes in our climate are well insulated, have plenty of thermal mass inside the building and are correctly orientated to allow maximum solar entry through the winter months while protecting the house from extreme elements,`` he said.

Appropriately placed windows and doors create natural breezeways through the home, provide natural light and give access to outside decks, courtyards and gardens.

``Allowing sunlight in and encouraging ventilation also creates a healthier home,`` he said.

Paul Craig is the exclusive builder of Balance Homes – a design and building service offering energy-efficient homes which have the potential to achieve a 7-star energy rating using environmentally-sustainable materials.

``This style of building is the way of the future as it complements Adelaide's climate rather than fighting against it,`` Mr Craig said.

``By getting the building design right, people can potentially shave hundreds of dollars a year from their energy bills because their need for heating and cooling will be dramatically reduced.``

Materials used in Balance Homes include recycled and plantation timbers, Hebel panel, solid internal walling and corrugated iron.

For more information on Balance Homes, contact Paul Craig on 0409 842 223 or visit the website at www.balancehomes.com.au

