

Family passion a thriving venture

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BUILDING a home is a family affair for most, but Adelaide's Wright family has gone a step further and made it a business.

Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) managing director Steven Wright, an ex-private secretary to former Premier Don Dunstan, and wife Margit have put their passion for green and sustainable homes on the drawing board, with son Adam Wright and daughter Nadia Matijevic also involved.

"It's about combining family passions and skills into creating something unique," says Adam, who draws on his overseas real estate experience as part of ESD's Beyond Today project sales team.

Margit Wright - a winner of more than 27 state awards - has run her landscape designs business, Adelaide Garden Design,



UNIQUE PLANNING: Steven Wright and son Adam on site.

for more than 15 years. It is now co-managed by daughter Nadia.

ESD's latest project is the \$120m, 91-ha development near Victor Harbor that includes a nine-home display village.

Beyond Today is one of

the largest environmental restoration development projects in SA.

It has 59ha, or 73 per cent, of the land dedicated to native vegetation, grasslands, wetlands and trees. Each of the 220 allotments is between

500-996sq m with prices from \$138,000 to \$169,000.

"We have interest from all over Australia with buyers attracted to the energy-efficiency guidelines, natural surroundings and sustainable approach," Mr Wright said.

Build on basics for long-term solution

ADDRESSING fundamental building issues and incorporating finer details is at the heart of ecologically sustainable development, says John Maitland, founder and managing director of Energy Architecture.

Presiding member of the Adelaide City Council's Urban Design Advisory Panel, Mr Maitland advises Adelaide businesses on design matters affecting the future of Adelaide and South Australia.

Proper infrastructure, ecological responsive designs and energy efficiency are some of the essentials that businesses and builders need to incorporate as part of their sustainability focus, besides waste and water management, he says.

Effective northern orientation, use of reverse brick veneer, external insulation and natural cooling and heating mechanisms are some of the design ideas advocated by Energy Architecture.

Project size, siting and use of materials have an impact on environmental sustainability and it is important for companies to "make decisions based on the long term," Mr Maitland says.



PLANNING: John Maitland.

Over the past 17 years, Energy Architecture has received more than 17 awards and commendations for its development initiatives in South Australia, including the Royal Australian Institute of Architects' 2006 State Award for Merit - Sustainability.

Energy Architecture projects include the Aldinga Arts Eco-village, the upcoming Green Cathedral project in North Adelaide and the Lochiel Park development.

Mr Maitland is co-designer and author of the development guidelines of ESD's Beyond Today green village project near Victor Harbour.