



# BUILDING *tomorrow*

ANDY HORN'S PASSION FOR SUSTAINABLE DESIGN IS CHANGING THE WAY OUR COMMUNITIES LIVE AND THINK



**I**n the mid-1990s, there were no architectural firms in Cape Town practising real green design and Andy Horn, freshly graduated, was becoming increasingly frustrated. He was passionate about ecological design. He harked back to his childhood memories of Swaziland, where modern forms of construction jarred awkwardly with the tranquil landscape. He was determined to create buildings in better harmony with nature.

Andy, now 45, founded Eco Design Architects & Consultants in 1998, blazing the trail for the green-building movement in South Africa and picking up a number of international awards along the way. Today, he is more committed than ever to his vocation.

**Our country**, and our planet as a whole, is being threatened on multiple levels, from climate change to resource depletion, habitat destruction, pollution and increasing social inequality. The built environment contributes heavily to these issues and can affect them positively or negatively. Green architecture aims to protect precious resources such as water, energy, materials and fresh air.

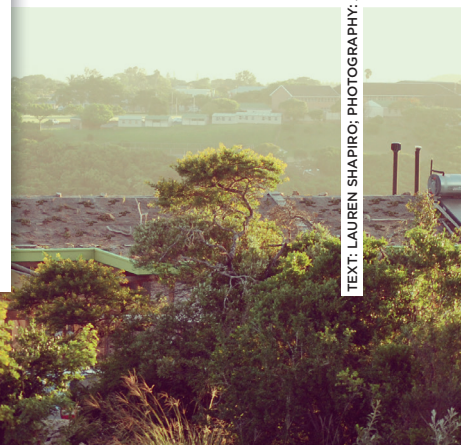
**Architecture is** a process that affects people's livelihoods and well-being. It can establish an enabling environment for people to thrive, creating entrepreneurial opportunities and jobs. Using local, natural, as well as recycled, materials means communities can become more involved in the development of their built environments.

**Green buildings are** more self-sustaining, cheaper to run, and contribute positively to the health and productivity of their inhabitants.

**My business is** my art. Architecture can be beautiful and is potentially the ultimate of all art forms, in the sheer size and multidimensionality of it.

**Becoming more** conscious of the impact of decisions we make as designers and builders means we can make more responsible choices and help bring about positive change within society and the environment. I like to call it 'conscious design'. **LS**

For more inspiration on green building in SA, visit [ecodesignarchitects.co.za](http://ecodesignarchitects.co.za).



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