

Reasons for Choosing BP Architects

We had not built a new home before so we had much to look forward to. It was an exciting time & I was longing to begin the process. However, I also knew there would be many challenges, & have severe, multiple, chemical allergies/intolerances. I realized that the selection of an appropriate architect was paramount to the success of the project.

At my first meeting with Bridget, she outlined the services of BP Architects, explained her orientation, discussed building materials & in the course of our discussions I was delighted to learn that she had additional qualifications in the field of allergy architecture. She also listened to me & was able to supply references.

I felt very comfortable with Bridget & as we wanted our home to be as energy-efficient as possible, I found her knowledge & experience in this area impressive. As well, I had not met anyone who could better meet my needs allergy-wise. I was therefore very pleased to engage the services of BP Architects to design our new home.

The Process

The design stage took a little longer than I expected. Initially, I was trying to incorporate some Feng Shui principles into the design even consulting a Feng Shui practitioner. I decided that to go this way, I was not really getting a house I would like. I further discussed this conflict with another consultant who was so much more flexible in her interpretation of Feng Shui & together with Bridget, who was always the voice of reason, I focussed once more on what was important to me.

We also had to accommodate my husband's desire for certain "conventional" materials to be used & much time was taken considering our options.

The process was also delayed by other commitments that we had. Importantly, Bridget gave us the time to work through these issues. Because of my allergies there were more decisions than most to be made & many factors to consider. Bridget was absolutely brilliant in this regard & her advice & guidance were invaluable.

With regard to energy-efficiency this was easy as this is a particular speciality of BP Architects.

The plans & specifications supplied by BP Architects were very detailed & this was certainly helpful to me as the house progressed. I appreciated the fact that Bridget could be contacted to clarify certain things & also to suggest an alternative if a certain material was unavailable.

Even so, it was not an easy process as there were times when the builder, but more so some of his contractors, had difficulty in accepting different ideas & ways of doing things. There were also decisions to be made due to unforeseen circumstances. It was at these times especially, that I valued the support & advice from my son who is a builder. Certainly, it would have been less stressful to have the project professionally managed but, on the other hand, I also wanted to be involved in the process. All in all, it was definitely manageable.

The Outcome

We are very pleased with our new home. It looks good & has a great feel about it. It just seems to flow extremely well. We have also achieved our objectives. I have been able to live in this house from day one without any adverse effects. I seriously considered installing a ventilation system but it would have been an unnecessary expense. Bridget also thought I was unnecessary.

With regard to energy-efficiency we have found the house to be very comfortable. During a very hot summer, we used the evaporative cooler on two or three occasions and then only briefly to cool down after being out & about in the sun. The solar hot water is great & I am amazed how well it works. It is also gas-boosted. We have hydronic heating because the winters here are very cold but we have yet to experience the winter months in our home. It has been used but overall the house is not a cold house. During the fit-out last winter, the builder was amazed that the interior was so warm compared to the external temperature.

Our builder has done an excellent job & was very willing to accommodate my needs. The joiner too, could not have been more obliging & I am most grateful for their commitment & diligence in meeting my particular needs. We were also blessed to have a plumber who was a perfectionist, even to the extent of designing & making fittings to suit our particular situation. We have a tank which supplies water to the kitchen & ensuite only. This was done in order to conserve the water for my use in those areas I frequently use the most. We have a reverse osmosis filter which is also connected to a steam oven. To do this was quite a feat.

In conclusion, I would like to say that it has been a very interesting journey for me. I have been introduced to many new products & ideas & I am now much more willing to embrace these ideas. Bridget is very talented & has been wonderful to work with. I would be very happy to recommend the services of BP Architects.

Bev May