

# MODERN GREEN HOMES Sanctuary

INSIDE ISSUE 38 20+ kitchen & bathroom designs; natural pools; all-electric solar homes; green roof guide; renovated Sydney semi; efficient appliances; design workshop Blue Mountains + more

**SPECIAL**

## GREENER KITCHENS & BATHROOMS

# WIN

A home battery storage system from Enphase

Offer open to Australian and New Zealand residents, details p87



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### PLUS

Optimise your solar system  
Ways to avoid eco-design pitfalls  
Cairns home adapted to the tropics

### SUSTAINABLE STRATA

Owner actions transform  
7 apartment buildings



# Products

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## 01

### WIFI WATERING SYSTEM

Home automation has entered the garden with a watering system that uses weather data to determine when to water. The Skydrop Controller connects to your home WiFi to predict upcoming showers, deluges or dry spells from real-time weather station data. The user splits the garden into zones and the Skydrop sets off each sprinkler when needed according to plant type, soil type, sprinkler type, shade and slope angle. Control it via the app on a smartphone or computer, or use the handheld screen to adjust the settings. Tell Skydrop about any water restrictions and it will automatically adjust watering days. The system will appeal to those with substantial gardens who want to cut their water use, or those who just want to water a bit smarter, with infrequent deep watering said to promote healthy root growth in plants. The Skydrop Controller is from Reece with an RRP of \$438.90.

[www.reece.com.au/irrigation/brands/skydrop](http://www.reece.com.au/irrigation/brands/skydrop)

## 02

### HOME VENTILATION VIA HEAT PUMP

A very well insulated home, or any home for that matter, can need help flushing out the stale air. The Duolix Max from Atlantic is a heat recovery ventilation system (HRV) that takes moisture-laden air from toilets, bathrooms and kitchens and replaces it with filtered fresh air ducted into bedrooms and living areas. In summer, it can subtly cool the home so that air conditioners get less of a workout. The main component is a very quiet heat exchanger that in winter swaps the heat from air drawn out to the fresh air coming in. In summer, the system can circulate the cool morning and evening air into living areas. This flow of air makes for a much healthier home. The Duolix Max costs up to \$35 per m<sup>2</sup> for a fully installed system, less for parts only.

[www.atlantics.com.au/home-ventillation-systems.html](http://www.atlantics.com.au/home-ventillation-systems.html)





03

**MODULAR INDOOR GARDEN**

There's no doubt that plants within a home, office or even an aged care facility can improve the health and wellbeing of those who live or work there. They clear the air of pollutants and even act as a bio-filter to capture VOCs. With this in mind, green living advocate and designer Joost Bakker has teamed with Schiavello to design an adaptable steel frame for plants. Vertical Garden is modular so that the greenery can be boosted when needed, and the flexible design gives the freedom to decorate shelves with potted plants, a herb garden, as well as books and other ornamental objects. The system is suited to the home, and can really benefit a school or healthcare setting where plants can have a therapeutic effect. Single 300mm columns can be purchased for \$635 or \$1300 for a 1164mm grid, and are available in heights of 1740mm, 2316mm or 2604mm.

[www.schiavello.com/verticalgarden](http://www.schiavello.com/verticalgarden)



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04

**EV CHARGE MANAGER FOR APARTMENTS**

Electric vehicle charging is new territory in apartment blocks where there's a fine line between what's yours and what's communally owned. Residents might not want to subsidise a neighbour who charges their electric vehicle using common area power. Enter the E-Station Charge Star Manager, a sub-metering and access control system designed to work with charging stations in strata and body corporate properties. The charging station within the apartment block is connected to the Charge Star Network where all data about car charging sessions is captured and stored. This data is extracted from the network and emailed to the strata managers each month, who then bill the resident. The appeal for strata managers is that they have very little to organise other than billing, with E-Station managing user access cards and, of course, all the data. The management fee is \$250 per station per year, and there is a one-off cost of \$1990 for each networked charging station.

[www.e-station.com.au/chargestarmanager](http://www.e-station.com.au/chargestarmanager)

05

**BRIGHT LIGHTS**

Modern homes need adaptable systems, lights included. Brightgreen's new range of LED wall lights can be manipulated into various positions to illuminate different areas. The collection of four new designs features three universal adjustments that enable the fittings to move in and out and side to side so that light lovers can play with the effect and create new points of interest within the room. The hand-finished lights come in a choice of round or square or small or large and are cast from aluminium so can be recycled at the end of their life. The energy efficient LEDs range from 6W to 15W and 200 to 900 lumens depending on the fitting. Being wall-mounted also saves cutting a hole in the wall which can impact the home's thermal efficiency. The range includes the W200 SX Curve, the W900 SX Curve, the W200 SX Cube and the W900 SX Cube and prices start at \$149.

[www.brightgreen.com](http://www.brightgreen.com)

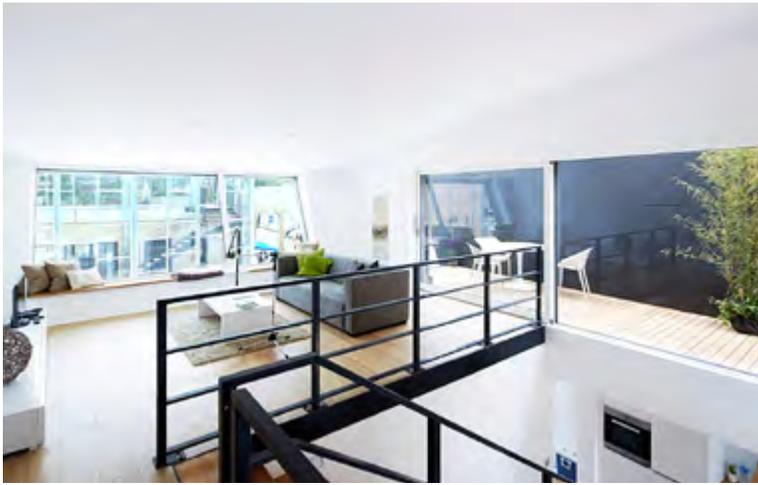


06

**PAPEROCK PLY**

We looked at Paperock in *Sanctuary 24*, a strong laminate material that works well as a kitchen benchtop. Now there's Paperock Ply, a lighter and cheaper option suited to kitchen cabinetry as well as furniture, signage and more. The Paperock component is the same as before, made from layer upon layer of recycled or sustainably-sourced paper which is then compressed, bonded with a resin and heat/pressure cured. The Ply option comprises a thin Paperock sheet laminated to both sides of exterior grade plywood made from FSC-certified, low formaldehyde Wisa Birch. Paperock should withstand most bumps and spills and last a while in the kitchen as it's impervious to water, and any marks can be sanded away. Paperock Ply costs between \$149 and \$289 per m<sup>2</sup> (ex GST), depending on the thickness of the plywood. Colours include black, brown, green and sand.

[www.paperock.com.au](http://www.paperock.com.au)



07

**PHASE CHANGE PLASTERBOARD**

Plasterboard doesn't usually rate as a material high in thermal mass. Add phase change materials (PCMs) to it though, and voila, plasterboard might be able to store and release heat much like a double-brick wall. Knauf Comfortboard is embedded with tiny polymer balls containing paraffin wax that melt and solidify depending on the temperature in the room. When the wax melts, it absorbs heat and stores it in the board, and when the temperature drops, the wax solidifies and releases that heat back into the room. Comfortboard is thin and light compared to other thermal mass so comes in handy if space is an issue, and can be used exactly like ordinary plasterboard, in the ceiling for instance, where most heat loss occurs. Comfortboard is made from industrial gypsum and recycled paper, with no VOCs emitted from the board or the PCMs. POA.

[www.knaufplasterboard.com.au/comfortboard](http://www.knaufplasterboard.com.au/comfortboard)



08

**COMPOST IN THE CITY**

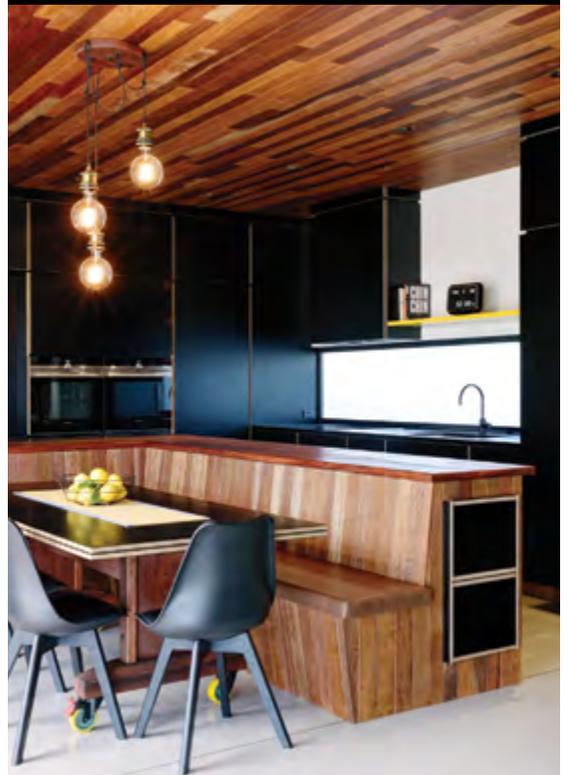
There are plenty of ways apartment dwellers can keep food waste out of landfill, even if they don't have a garden. One option is the Urban Composter City, the mini version of the original Urban Composter. The eight litre capacity bucket is designed with couples and small families in mind and fits tight spaces such as under the kitchen

sink. The Urban Composter City uses anaerobic composting where the food scraps decompose slowly without oxygen. An accelerator spray containing fermented fruit extract helps the scraps break down faster. Simply cut the food into small pieces, spray and seal the lid. The system diverts food waste from landfill and can give plants valuable nutrients. Excess moisture can be drained every few days, diluted and fed to plants as a liquid fertiliser, and after six weeks the compost can be fed to yours or a friend's garden. Price is \$49 or \$65 with a starter kit.

[www.urbancomposter.com.au/product/urban-composter-city](http://www.urbancomposter.com.au/product/urban-composter-city)

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