

Award winning architect will design a home to fit your lifestyle like a glove

by **Cameron Outridge**

PHILIP Boorman is an exceptional designer, there's no doubt about that. He has won many prestigious awards for outstanding architectural work and, more recently, for modern furniture design.

Of course, being an accomplished architect is not just about designing homes that win awards. It's about designing homes your clients are comfortable with.

He must have been doing something right over the years because as far as he can tell no-one on the Range has put their Phil Boorman designed home on the market.

Phil's wife Denise said doing the right thing by the client was first priority for Phil. "Most people looking at houses do have an idea of what they want," said Denise. "It's up to us to get them the lifestyle home they want in the most economical way.

"Philip is very good at getting the information from people so that they receive exactly what they want. We often say we save our clients our fees because there are no mistakes in the building process.

"We take away the stressful aspects of building. We make it fun. You have a good time and you get what you want, while we coordinate with builders etcetera.

"The planning stage is really the most important," said Phil. "We always say it's a downhill run once the building starts, which is quite counter to people's normal experience. We have the expertise. But the process is controlled by the client. It's their ideas that I try to make come to life. Then we put together the whole house, the colours, the fixtures they like and we make sure it all works.

"We can also offer advice on lighting and electrical and floor coverings," said Denise.

Clients provide feedback by going through magazines and by inspecting other houses that Phil has designed.

"They get the opportunity to talk to people who have already been through the process and look at a million and one products inside and outside and we get a lot of feedback this way," said Denise. "We might also take



Phil Boorman at his Mapleton Studio which features his stunning furniture designs.

them to different styles of homes that would suit their block."

In fact Phil is determined to educate people about the dangers inherent in selecting a block of land on the Blackall Range. "We've started opening on a Saturday here for people who are looking to buy land on the Range. They may be looking at choosing one of two or three different blocks. They can talk to Phil about what they can or can't do on each. He will even go to the land and give them valuable information. He's not a real estate agent or a builder so he can give them unbiased advice. Everyone should have a quick chat to him before they purchase. Most blocks up here are unstable. On some you are not allowed to do certain things. He can tell you what sort of house will suit a sloping block. If they have something in mind he can tell them whether it will be possible. He can even give

guidance on the cost of building which varies greatly with the block. If it's unstable it's nothing to spend \$100,000 on foundations."

Denise said Wood Expo enthusiasts may be particularly interested in sustainable home design which was a feature of Phil Boorman homes.

"A lot of people coming to the Range from other places may not be aware you may have to live on rainwater with no town sewerage and no power," said Denise. "Our houses have always been as sustainable as we can make them. Our own home is sustainable. We are totally on solar."

Look for the TJP Design and Design by Philip Boorman signs at the Maleny Wood Expo. Information booklets are available at the stall which is up near the stage.

Otherwise the Mapleton studio is at Shop 9 Obi Obi Road, just down from and opposite Mapleton Tavern. Phone 5445 7020.