

intensity

the art of integration and technology | issue 04 winter 2008



C-Bus
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the art of integration and technology

aesthetics of a product, as more and more devices are put on display on walls, floors and ceilings. Consistency in design cues are becoming more critical than ever, to create a harmony where products blend together, rather than fighting for the attention of the eye.

This issue, we take a look at a range of fantastic projects from high-calibre architects, all with home automation systems installed by a C-Bus pointOne member.

We profile Sydney-based architects Stanic Harding and take a look at their latest project – a house with views of the harbour from a sloping site in Hunters Hill, Sydney.

We take a detailed look at the new Synergi Solutions range, including co-ordinated designer ranges by Clipsal and other premium household interior brands WattyI paints, Caroma Dorf bathrooms and Gainsborough door hardware.

Next, we take our first look at a hospitality project – a new bar in Fortitude Valley, Brisbane, called Tanbah. This spectacular interior by Dennis Arnold of DA2 design + architecture, takes an Asian fusion approach to design, melded with a sense of the outdoors that is truly Queensland.

And, finally, we have a look at a large family weekend retreat in rural NSW by Gabel and Elizabeth Poole Architects which consists of a series of linked pavilions nestled into a bush setting.

What all of these projects highlight, is the close relationship that has been built up between C-Bus pointOne members and the architects and designers they deal with on a daily basis.

Every architect we speak to is more than happy to discuss their relationship with their C-Bus pointOne member and what comes through again and again is reliability, convenience and end-result.

And that's what the C-Bus pointOne program is all about; making life easier for the architect, the designer, the builder and, ultimately, the most important person in the equation – the client.

Regards,
Simon Wehr

*Marketing Manager – Residential
Clipsal*

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Convergence, Solution, System. These are words we seem to hear more and more each day, mostly relating to just how intertwined the technology within our lives has become.

Take for example the modern mobile phone; it takes photos, plays music, surfs the internet, delivers emails – oh ... and I almost forgot – makes phone calls.

This once humble device perfectly represents modern life in a world where everything has become inter-connected. Our homes, our offices and, in fact, our lives are rapidly travelling down the same converging freeway as we do our best to both maximise and simplify technology, while maintaining an awareness of our environmental responsibilities.

But convergence is not only about the technology – it is equally important with the



The latest in Clipsal systems were on show at this year's Living Innovations XPO8 – Showcasing the Future of the Electrical Industry. Under the umbrella of the Schneider Electric Group, Clipsal showed an inspiring mix of the latest product innovations in a walk-through interactive display.

Partner brands – Caroma Dorf, WattyI and Gainsborough – also showed their latest collections in the Synergi Solutions range, with fully-functional Clipsal product boards complemented by the latest designer ranges such as 'Ocean Mist' and 'Espresso Black'.

Innovations XPO8 also featured seminars exploring the latest in residential advancements and home automation, commercial integration, age and health care technology, industrial applications, as well as environmental changes and energy management.



stanic harding

devil is in the details

Andy Harding and Andrew Stanic have been working together for 20 years, providing fine detailing on residential projects, without losing site of the big picture. Penny Craswell takes a look at their latest house in Hunters Hill, Sydney.

Before they began Stanic Harding Pty Ltd Architecture and Interiors, Andy Harding and Andrew Stanic worked together in a small architectural and interior design practice, where they found an affinity of style and purpose. "Fundamentally we have similar approaches regarding the final product," says Harding. "But we both bring different and complementary skill bases to the design process which allow us to get there."

Since then, the partners have worked on a huge range of residential projects and have collected various accolades, such as the RAIA 2003 Architecture Awards – NSW Chapter for Interior Architecture for their Jackson Apartment, Milsons Point. They were also shortlisted for two Interior Design Awards – in 2007 for their Darling Point Apartment and in 2005 for their Milsons Point Apartment.

Their latest project – also in Sydney – is a house in Hunters Hill built on a sloping site, with views through to the inner harbour frontage. The house was formed as a series of pavilions stepping down the steep site offering a fairly discrete presentation to the street. The main entrance to the house is through a recess in the solid white wall of the bedroom pavilion creating privacy for the occupants. "This blank wall of the entry façade offered a fine canvas for the play of shadows from the selected planting," says Harding.

While the front provides privacy, the back space has been opened up onto the exterior with glazing providing transparency through to views of the water at the south. "The introduction of courtyard spaces offered shelter from prevailing winds," says Harding. "Meanwhile, controlled northern light was admitted into the building through large panels of fixed and operable glazing."

For a house of this scale, an intelligent lighting system is essential. Based on the needs of a



“As a practice we have used the C-Bus system for years due to its flexibility of interfacing with A/V and security systems.”



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Partridge Partners
Architect Stanic Harding
Project Team Andy Harding, Michael Alder, Harriet Sping, Bianco Pohio

tech-savvy client and the architect's preference, Clipsal C-Bus was chosen to create a state-of-the-art lighting and home automation system.

C-Bus pointOne member, Chris McGowen of Advanced Living says, "Some clients want to put in a CD and play it and that's all. This client really understood home automation and the benefits of distributing digital content throughout the home, as well as the ability to mix control of lights, music, and control of audio and video equipment."

The home automation features of this house include: A Clipsal C-Bus lighting control system linked into a C-Bus-enabled alarm panel with a dedicated C-Bus interface, plus a Digital Homeware

control system used to mix lighting control with music, television recording and audio visual control, providing complete control over lighting, alarms and entertainment functions throughout the house.

When asked about Clipsal C-Bus, Andy Harding had only good things to say: "As a practice we have used the C-Bus system for years due to its flexibility of interfacing with A/V and security systems. It also presents very well through the stainless steel switch plates."

*Text Penny Craswell
Photography Paul Gosney*



The answer comes with Synergi Solutions – a unique partnership between home automation experts Clipsal and other premium household interior brands.



more than the sum of its parts: synergi

Clipsal has teamed up with Wattyl, Caroma Dorf and Gainsborough to create a harmonious choice for interior hardware and fittings – Synergi Solutions. Penny Craswell reports.

Architects, builders and anyone who has built a new home or been involved in a renovation, know that fitting out a home means choosing everything, from furnishings and fittings to home paint colours and automation systems.

It's hard enough getting the sofa to complement the wall colour, but when it comes to hardware and fittings, there has to be an easier way.

The answer comes with Synergi Solutions – a unique partnership between Clipsal and other premium household interior brands Wattyl paints, Caroma Dorf bathrooms and Gainsborough door hardware.

"We spoke to architects and builders and realised that there was a real need for this kind of collaborative design approach," says Emma Gurling of Clipsal Australia.

"Rather competing to provide new trends and approaches, why not work together and share design with the consumer in mind?"

Clipsal worked closely with each of the partners to ensure the 'synergi' within each range – linking paint colour options with ceramics, stainless steel and switch colours, with round and square shapes giving a number of visual options, each of which is consistent between the brands.

Two of the ranges are 'Ocean Mist' which gives a frosted glass look and 'Espresso Black' for a sleek black sophisticated result. Products available include Clipsal switches, dimmers, sockets, screens and remotes, Wattyl broadwall neutrals and feature wall colours, Caroma Dorf basins, toilet suites, tapware and accessories and Gainsborough door hardware levers and locks.

Synergi Solutions removes the inconvenience of choosing the best quality interior colours, tap ware, door furniture, electrical accessories and home automation products.

Architects, designers, homebuilders and renovators are given the necessary information on

the latest ranges in one easy step.

"We understand that you want things to be consistent," says Gurling. "You want things to have a standard look and feel. We want to help you in that process."

Synergi Solutions was launched at Clipsal's Living Innovations XPO on 22 February 2008.

Text Penny Craswell



asian inspiration

Dennis Arnold of DA2 design + architecture has created a little bit of Asia in a new bar in Brisbane's Fortitude Valley – Tanbah. Nicky Lobo investigates.



Taking inspiration from the modern Australian menu with an Asian influence, Dennis and the clients decided to bring in elements of a timeless 'Bronze Age Asia'

When designing a space for the serving of fine wine and fine food at the edge of Brisbane's riverside business precinct, architect Dennis Arnold of DA2 design + architecture looked to Asia for inspiration. The 350m² area for 160 seats had to stand out from other businesses in the precinct, not only in terms of product and service, but also through the design. Taking inspiration from the modern Australian menu with an Asian influence, Dennis and the clients decided to bring in elements of a timeless 'Bronze Age Asia', differentiating the Tanbah restaurant from the generic Asian aesthetic, and keeping true to the Queensland outdoor lifestyle.

This prompted the siting of separate areas – outdoor dining and bar, open kitchen, wine cellar, communal and private dining – that, although distinct, flow into one another. The selection of furniture, as well as finishes, distinguish the spaces, ranging from the settings of ottomans with cube tables in the outdoor area to the communal dining table which features in the cellar dining area.

Dennis used only the colours, textures and sense of openness from the minimalist Asian aesthetic to inform the design for Tanbah, foregoing the typical



ornate elements for a clean geometry most suited to the Queensland lifestyle.

From the laminated oak bar in the outdoor area, patrons are able to see the open kitchen and wine cellar, with custom wine rack constructed from aged raw steel backed by red mirrors. The cellar wall becomes the outer wall to the kitchen, bringing elements of the Queensland landscape inside through the natural and unfinished Western Red cedar weatherboards.

As light was to play an important role in the atmosphere of Tanbah, Dennis chose to integrate the Clipsal C-Bus system into the project. The ambience of the space is heightened by the use of automated louvres throughout the fit-out to open large areas of the roof to the environment.

The generous facade leaves the premises essentially open to the streetscape while still providing a sense of privacy and enclosure, and six trees located above the open roof space are illuminated with blue LED bud lighting connecting the external and internal areas further, drawing patrons in.

The private dining area features banquette seating, enclosed by sheer drapes and an

illuminated brass mesh wall that creates a warm and intimate ambience.

The purposely under-lit space provides a sense of drama and a backdrop for the textures and colours that radiate from the kitchen servery and cellar. Dimmable fluorescent lights, RGB LEDs and nine ceramic heaters are also controlled through the C-Bus system, which is able to provide instant atmosphere at the touch of a button. Mindful of the power use, the C-Bus system allows heaters to be scheduled to assist with load shedding, controlled through thermostats. C-Bus pointOne member Glen Powell of Power Integration assisted throughout the project, including: "suggestions for the lighting design . . . upgrading the electrical system to cater for the increase in load and program, and commission for the automation aspect of the install."

Tanbah allows the theatre of the restaurant to unfold throughout the spaces, the patron gaining not just a satisfied stomach, but also a sense of the dramatic nature of a fine dining experience set in an urban Queensland landscape.

*Text Nicky Lobo
Images courtesy of Power Integration*

C-Bus pointOne member
Power Integration
Electrical Contractor
Power Integration
Builder Innovare
Architect and Interior Designer
DA2 design+architecture



C-Bus pointOne member
 Len Wallis Audio
 Builder Babc Construction
 Architect Gabriel and Elizabeth
 Poole Design Company
 Project Architect Dan Sparks

Poole has kept the rural scale and vernacular of the house by creating a series of three linked pavilions

house on the hill

Queensland-based Gabriel and Elizabeth Poole Design Company have created a retreat on the top of a hill in NSW with a rural vernacular and all the comforts of home. Penny Craswell reports.

When Gabriel Poole received the brief for a week-end rural retreat for a Sydney-based family who hope one day to move there full time, he realised that the house would have to be a large one.

But, rather than creating one large blocky mansion, Poole has kept the rural scale and vernacular of the house by creating a series of three linked pavilions, including the carport/store pavilion, the bedroom and bathroom pavilion, and the living pavilion. Other elements of the house, including exterior finishes, were used to highlight the rural setting.

Project Architect Dan Sparks comments: "The flat sheet zincalume reflects the ever-changing light conditions, whilst the black Colorbond is echoed in the burnt trunks of old gums dotted here and there, and in the family's herd of Angus cattle."

The Clipsal C-Bus system used in this home was a unique solution tailored to this particular house. The pavilions were lit separately, but could be controlled from one place. The lighting system also tied into a number of other automated features including an audio visual and air-conditioning system, security, irrigation and pool management systems and also the automated 'Rollashield'

shutters. Sparks comments: "It was particularly useful in this project in that it was designed in conjunction with the building (not retrofitted) and is used to communicate with a wide variety of electronic systems within the house."

As well as providing protection from the hot summer sun, the 'Rollashield' shutters also provided a solution to the problem of forest fires that frequent the area.

C-Bus pointOne member Peter Greentree of Len Wallis Audio says, "Every door and window on the house is covered by an electronic fireproof shutter – that's over 28 shutters. When smoke is detected in

the area the shutters will automatically close."

Building a home in the bush provides a magnificent setting as well as considerable challenges – not least forest fires. But via Clipsal C-Bus, this house has all the luxuries of a state-of-the-art modern home, as well as automated protection from fire. What more could you want?

*Text Penny Craswell
 Images courtesy of Len Wallis Audio*



If you are looking to enhance the design, functionality and comfort of your commercial or residential premises, look no further than a C-Bus pointOne accredited integration professional.

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