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October 08
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Member Profile ...

Introducing *Nic Owen* this month's member

Please note our new office address
310, 55 Flemington Rd **Melbourne**

As a kid I loved creating things with Leggo and drawing (and I still do). I can remember being on holiday in Nelson, NZ, with the family and drawing cars, caravans and campervans. My grandfather, a builder, always took a lot of interest in his grandchildren. He saw me drawing and advised, "don't draw cars – they rust out, draw houses they last a lot longer and are far more interesting."

Ever since then I have dreamed of being an architect.

The 1st year of Architecture at Auckland University was a huge shock for me.

I quickly realised that I didn't know what an architect was or what they did. The rug was pulled out from beneath my feet and I needed to survive. In my earlier Uni days I spent more time in pub music bands than serious architectural study. So much so that I was actually considering a career in music. I'm glad I followed through with architecture though.

Once Uni was completed I found work in a small Auckland firm for half a year designing one-off private residences. The work was sporadic and dried up very quickly but I had a taste of a small design office and knew that being a sole practitioner was for me.

I moved to Melbourne almost nine years ago and continued working for a small practice, initially avoiding computers, honing my design skills and gaining building knowledge.

In early 2004 I completed my first private renovation, which gave me a lot of confidence – I could do this! I registered in Victoria in 2005, gradually taking on more private work.

The building process looked like such a fantastic and worthwhile thing to do that I had to try it out for myself. Currently I have a busy team of builders working on my own house.



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ArchiTeam

"It's always good to go through what your clients go through" said one wise architect friend, and it is proving to be an exciting, whilst some-what emotional ride.

My house is a little single storey brick terrace in Carlton on a very, very small piece of land (less then 100m2)

We have removed the rear half of the house and are replacing it with a modern, two storey, concrete 'bunker' type building. Privacy and noise are the main driving design factors with the extension.

Like a lot of worthwhile things in life, my passion for architecture took some time to grow although now it seems to be bordering on an obsession. Josie (my wife) tells me I need a hobby.



At the moment the Nic Owen Architects team consists of Josie (part time) and me. Josie is a practicing artist, teaching, studying and exhibiting. She works with me throughout the design process, accompanying me to the client meetings and generally making me look good!

The profile on my web page sums up my passion and drive for architecture:

"Nic Owen Architects is a young design focused architectural team located in the heart of Carlton, Victoria.

The team is committed to creating architecture that is a joy to inhabit through the treatment of space, form, materials and light.

The practice specialises in residential architecture, which responds to each individual site and environment, creating unique and elegant forms that contribute to the wider community and make a difference to our visual landscape"

nicowenarchitects.com.au

Architeam AGM – It's that time again

13th November 2008 at 6.00pm
at

Ground Floor of our new offices
55 Flemington Road

Three Board members **John Henry, Fred Tonelli and Paul Orlandini** have come to the end of their two-year terms.

Elections however will not be conducted as there were no nominations other than the three current Directors for these three positions.

We will also celebrate our new office, new staff and damn good year for Architeam on all fronts – PI, PD and Datum – the Directors have been working hard for you and we intend to continue to grow Architeam into 2009.