

Author Bio:

Name : Philip Fitzpatrick

Place of Birth : London UK

Qualifications : Member of Chartered Institute of Building (1995)

Designation : MCIOB

Professional Title : Building Surveyor

Current Location: Divides time between Melbourne and London but a regular visitor to North America.

Philip grew up in London during an exciting period of having 'endless' houses that needed upgrading and large tracts of vacant land that were created by demolition. New Estates were constructed as were commercial buildings, offices and retail spaces. The modern world was approaching fast and cutting edge construction methods dragged a trade based industry along but people still appreciated quality. Fine refurbishments and keeping traditional methods of working were respected while there was a move to 'rationalise' and reduce training and skills. Some battles were lost but some were won.

Their family company (of four brothers, four surveyors) won many awards including the prestigious Master Builders 'highest quality of work' award.

Philip introduced a series of talks on St Pancras Station in London (Grade One Listed and of 'exceptional interest') to discuss the best way forward for the fine refurbishment so badly needed. He worked with colleges and training organisations to promote apprenticeships for school leavers and also for disadvantaged young people and long term unemployed later entrants. This led to representations to central government meeting ministers and making the case for training investment.

Philip travelled extensively across the USA as a guest of the US government to meet training groups and discuss industry changes. Philip is widely involved in many groups and is still today a member of the London Irish Centre Building Development Committee that is overseeing a £14M (19M USD) (25M AUD) new build development of their premises in a London conservation area. This will be a dramatic addition to the area but highly responsive to environmental issues and concerns. Philip has worked on projects in the UK, Australia, Ireland, Belgium, Netherlands, Caribbean and Morocco.

There is a growing movement to be your own homebuilder for many reasons from saving money to creating an environmentally sustainable world. People want to revolutionise their living spaces often by retaining a feel of the old with a twist of the new.

There are many answers and 'A Builders Companion' series of books looks to offer guidance and advice to help you get to work out where you want to be and how to get there!

Philip started thinking about the book over 25-years ago and the outline drawn up then is still recognisable in 'The Builder's Companion' books. The Covid-19 stay at home regime in scenic Mt. Martha, Victoria spurred Philip to get his ideas down on paper but he has retained the 'human touch' and included many 'True Stories' and 'Take-away's that are relevant to today's homebuilders.