

# Giving tanks for valuable eco-sense

By Anya Murray

WHO would have thought corrugated iron water tanks would become a fashion icon in Bayside?

But thanks to Prahran designer Luke Middleton water tanks are popping up in some of the trendiest locales in Melbourne.

The 36-year-old has designed two properties in Brighton and Black Rock that integrate water saving features.

Mr Middleton said he had submerged water tanks beneath garden beds, concealed them with timber decking and hidden them beneath a driveway.

He said a water tank could reduce a person's daily water consumption by as much as 70 per cent.

"Water restrictions are not about to be lifted anytime soon, so what better way to save water than with a water tank," Mr Middleton said.

"We've actually had a really positive reaction from local real estate agents who say water tanks are adding value to inner city properties."

Mr Middleton said he had been working on making the water tank a funky addition to modern houses for the past three years.

"I am passionate about producing houses that are self-sufficient and use less resources," he said.

"By investing between \$4000 and \$10,000 in a water tank you can save 6000 litres of water in an hour, which equates to 20,000 pots of beer."



Luke Middleton with the water tanks he has incorporated into his building design.

Picture: TOM CAMPBELL, N05SB551