



**For immediate release**

## Move over environmental home, the ethical house is shifting in

Everyone is well aware of the move to environmentally friendly homes - but it's the ethical home which will be the next evolution in home living.

A walk-through display of what this home will be look like will be showcased at Fair@Square - Australia's largest fair trade and ethical festival in Melbourne in December.

A partnership with Eco Innovators and RMIT, the 'How Ethical is Your Home' project, is part of the Fair Living Tent and will be open from 3 – 4 December at Federation Square.

Leyla Acaroglu, director of Eco Innovators, experts in sustainability assessment and advice, says statistics showing a typical household runs 67 appliances on mains power; and 10% of the country's total yearly timber imports are illegally logged, has influenced and inspired the design of the house.

"The house will feature a lounge, kitchen and bathroom explaining where for instance the timber may have come from for the sofa and how this impacts on those who sourced it, and explain the lifespan of the sofa.

"It will really engage people with just how easy it is to be sustainable and ethical in the home, from considering what type of human labour was used to source the coffee they drink, to the reduction in the amount of superfluous electronic goods consumed each year."

She says moving to a more ethical home is the natural progression in home living, as people become more aware of the importance of sustainability.

Moral Fairground director Susanna Bevilacqua says the Fair@Square event is proud to be taking the lead in demonstrating the evolution in home design.

"While this is a demonstration of what homes will be more like in the future, there are small things people can do now to move to a more ethical way of life, and in doing so make real change in the way people are fairly treated in other parts of the world.

"By simply using fair trade coffee, some farmers in remote parts of the world will, for the first time, earn enough money to be able provide food on the table for their family."

David Evans of Oxfam Australia Trading, Australia's leading fair trade retailer which is sponsoring the Fair Living Tent, says this gives those visiting the display a tangible look at what they can do to help drive change.

"We are doing what we can to make it easy for Australians to help producers and their communities' work their way out of poverty, and by visiting the display, people can learn how they too can work towards making a real difference to the lives of so many."

The Fair@Square event will also feature an ethical fashion show, an indulgence tent with live cooking demonstrations using fair and local produce, discussions in the Fair Talk tent about ethical and sustainable issues that we face today and more than 80 stall holders selling ethical and fair trade products, including everything from Oxfam giftware; Cadbury fair-trade chocolate and Lush beauty products to accessories and jewellery.



MORALFAIRGROUND.COM.AU



For more information: <http://moralfairground.com.au/fairhighlights.html>

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### **About Fair@Square**

Fair@Square demonstrates how Australians can take action to create a sustainable future that values and respects all people and the preservation of our planet.

The festival showcases goods and services produced by a wide range of ethical producers including Oxfam, Cadbury, Lush and Adorn – to name but a few.

It offers workshops, talks, market stalls, music, fashion and art.

Still a relatively new concept, it's just three years old, and will this year expand into a three day event from December 2 – 4.