

This is a reference for Jason Rahilly of Gypco carpentry group for the build and construction of the Epoch Institute at 147 Cecil Street South Melbourne.

The Epoch Institute is reimagining people, place and the planet. As such we promote conscious and ethical conduct in how we live on and with this planet. In the work Jason Rahilly from Gypco did for us, he had an exemplary professional attitude as he went about his work as a builder and a site manager, liaising seamlessly with other trades, tenants of the building and of course us. His team was caring and meticulous in their whole approach going above and beyond the usual “green” standard. No rubbish was left on site, and everything was recycled, which we found extraordinary.

All of this has obviously reinforced Epoch’s credentials as a green and sustainable company. In addition, the quality and craftsmanship of their work was second to none where they walked the talk on everything they did; coming in on both time and budget. They made sure they communicated everything to us at every point along the way decreasing our anxiety and making the build not only smooth but incredibly enjoyable as well, which is a rare feat.

One of the first things we noticed about Jason was his personal commitment to the regenerative ethos. We discovered this note on the door of the site on Day One of the build:



To make it easy for people, he provided corn-based (fully regenerative) “Keep cups” for those who entered the site. His passion to help people learn about their impacts and natural systems as he does his work is second to none.



At the end of the build we were trying to tie up some loose ends with him and couldn't reach him for a couple of days. Eventually when we did we discovered that he was off the grid and had gone to the Daintree region in northern Queensland to do some tree planting as part of rainforest regeneration work. However, this was not just a commitment to do something good for the environment, but rather to link the impacts of our build to the environment. Jason's team created a detailed report about the carbon footprint of the work of our renovation and his planting in the Daintree was a conscious act of off-setting that carbon impact. This was mind-blowing to us as it was completely unsolicited. It shows again the deeply-rooted integrity of his approach to this work.

The final piece that demonstrated his ethos around both sustainability and commitment to go that extra mile, was his immediate and enthusiastic response when we asked whether he was able to build an internal planter box at the entrance of Epoch, where people will sit when they arrive. We

mentioned it one morning during a routine follow-up meeting. Later that night he sent photos of the up-cycled materials he was proposing to use (re-used floor boards). The box and the climbing frame for the plants was installed within days. See below.



In summary, the Epoch Directors have no hesitation in recommending Jason and his team to anyone, particularly those seeking to embed the principles of sustainability and regenerative design in their work.

Gilbert Rochecouste, Steve Ray, Emanuela Giroto, Kath Murdoch
Directors, Epoch Institute Pty Ltd.

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