



STYLING: ANNETTE MARK BURGIN

Jim Ruig and his 'Big Red Shed' recycle and reinvent the architectural debris of the past.

jim Ruig's Big Red Shed is home base to a burgeoning entrepreneurial spirit, where old-fashioned "making do" merges with a progressive and practical attitude about recycling the debris of the past.

Ruig collects interesting doors, windows, timber beams, assorted bits of hardware, and an unusual assembly of oversized architectural features. One of the latest pursuits at the Big Red Shed is what

Ruig refers to as "value-adding" – reinventing new wares from old. Sections of pressed metal ceiling are set into frames to create one-off cabinet doors, patinated old timber doors convert to trestle tables for alfresco dining, and hand carved balustrade panels are reincarnated as unique front doors.

"In all my travels, I'm always looking for the off-beat. But I do keep generic items because a lot of my bread and butter business is people buying doors and windows, hinges

and bits of timber. I also mill my own timber beams to make extra wide floorboards, tabletops and benchtops, and again, that's adding value," says Ruig. "The essence of this place is to try to create an alternative building centre."

Ruig is developing a contact base of like-minded tradesmen, whose specialist skills will complement his raw and recycled materials. □

SHIRLEY POWELL

Big Red Shed, Camford Street, Milton, Qld. Tel: (07) 367 2151.

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