

property new



THINK SMALL: Malcolm Holz will present his ideas on micro-homes for inner city spaces at the Ideas Festival.

Living large is not our lot in life

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A BRISBANE town planner has come up with an ingenious way of combating Queensland's housing lot shortage: move into the driveway.

Malcolm Holz, who has over 20 years' property development experience, says that instead of constructing higher apartment buildings we should concentrate on 10sq m lot sizes to fill the leftover spaces in our inner city and suburban areas.

"Even a driveway to a double garage could be utilised for unit space," Mr Holz said.

He is even advocating the conversion of parking spaces into future housing lots.

"When congestion really kicks in and people will be forced into taking public transport, parking stations will be reducing in use, and this space could be converted into a dwelling area," he said.

Mr Holz will be presenting a seminar at the Ideas Festival at the State Library of Queensland on Friday on the concept of micro-housing.

The seminar, entitled *McMansion to Micro-mansion*, will investigate the concept that this is the more affordable option in coming up with future housing solutions.

Bees Nees City Realty managing director Rob Honeycombe said a 25-30sq m unit in Brisbane's inner city could cost up to \$200,000 while in some areas, the addition of a car space added \$50,000 to the selling price.

Examples of micro-housing can already be found in London, New York and Tokyo.

Mr Holz will be promoting the Hutwheels project: a portable housing option built on caravan technology designed to suit Australian housing tastes with traditional fittings, high ceilings and even a veranda.

>> The Ideas Festival, jointly sponsored by Quest Community Newspapers, will run from May 19-22 at the State Library of Queensland.