

Quicksmart builds first prefab hospital

PUBLISHED: 18 Mar 2011 12:38:45 PRINT EDITION: 18 Mar 2011

Ben Hurley

Prefabricated housing producer Quicksmart Homes says it has built the country's first modular hospital ward – a 31-bed orthopaedic and surgical facility that was constructed in just four months.

Company founder Tom Lane, a former fashion industry figure, said he had about \$400 million of tenders to build prefab houses for the resources industry and sees aged care and hospitals as the next big thing.

“We have a large proportion of the population who are ageing and the demand for better quality aged care and hospital facilities is significant,” Mr Lane said.

The extension of the Lake Macquarie Private Hospital in Newcastle, NSW, was built with prefabricated steel-frame boxes shipped from a factory in China. Each contained two hospital rooms and a corridor. The hospital rooms were delivered with fully finished bathrooms, including tiles, showers, shower screens and windows, as well as hospital equipment such as nurse call buttons and gas delivery. They also had stone benchtops and cabinetry.

“It's pretty much finished apart from wheeling in the bed and putting the carpet down,” Mr Lane said.

Mr Lane said his modular buildings minimised disruption to the existing hospital by shortening the time and reducing the noise. Cost savings were also delivered to listed global hospital operator Ramsay Health Care, but he would not disclose the extent of savings, citing confidentiality.

Mr Lane said his company was now talking with Ramsay about a “significant roll out” of similar modular buildings around the country.

“They can have consistency,” Mr Lane said. “Now they have seen what can be delivered they can almost push the button and get this delivered around the country or even the world.”

The grandson of Boyd Lane, founder of the Orotan luxury accessories company, Mr Lane said his experience with manufacturing fashion products in Asia led him to his next idea – the mass production of dwellings and the founding of Quicksmart Homes in 2006.

The company supplied modules for two six-storey student accommodation buildings for the Australian National University in Canberra, with stage two finished late last year. Hotels are another big area.

The Australian Financial Review

Related News

Topics [Property - Residential/Infrastructure & Town Planning](#), [Construction & Engineering/Building Construction](#), [Construction & Engineering/Engineering](#)



Create an alert

Click on the links below to create an alert and receive the latest news as it happens

Topics [Property - Residential/Infrastructure & Town Planning](#), [Construction & Engineering/Building Construction](#), [Construction & Engineering/Engineering](#)