The Territory Government expects to name a Government architect next month Chief Minister, Clare Martin, said today at the NT launch of 2004, Year of the Built Environment.

Ms Martin said a Government architect would provide leadership on built environment, urban design and heritage issues; undertake brokerage of design solutions and outcomes; promote Territory architecture nationally and internally; encourage high standards and innovative designs for public buildings and promote public art in buildings and public spaces.

“We are committed to this Year and, by having a Government architect, we can better ensure public buildings comply with the principle of the year and beyond,” she said.

“The Year of the Built Environment will be celebrated with a program of events to encourage the community to appreciate and achieve built environments that are sustainable and provide us with an improved lifestyle.

“This is an opportunity for Australians to question, reveal, appreciate and understand how the structures, buildings and streetscapes, which form our built environment impact on their lives.

“The Year aims to embrace all community members from those in planning, design and building professions, to community leaders and those who live, work and play in the built environment.”

Seven fundamental themes will be the focus for the year’s activities, conferences and forums:

1. Towards sustainable communities
2. Healthy environments
3. Excellence in building
4. Our built heritage
5. Imagining the future
6. Design for all
7. Regional communities

Ms Martin said that there would be a house design competition (in Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine) and a host of community events encouraging the future construction of tropically designed structures that reflect Top End lifestyle and remain low on energy consumption.

Ms Martin said that construction on Government projects - such as the new City Waterfront Project - will also be encouraged to follow those design components.