

# By Design

DESIGN TRENDS 2022



ISSUE 1 | JANUARY 2022



Designer: Reece Keil  
Cover: Reece Keil



# Editor's Note

We proudly welcome you to the inaugural issue of By Design magazine; a complete, vividly illustrated showcase of the top trends that will most literally define our designs in the year 2022.

In exploring the issue of design trends in 2022, this dynamic, colourfully illustrated edition features expert perspectives from the top designers and building materials producers representing today's amazing and ever-changing Australian building industry and built environment. Let them show you the colours, the styles, the designs, the trends that will define the look of homes and businesses, schools and commercial spaces, industrial spaces and other places in the new year.

Yet beyond the obvious beauty and style of these designs, we present also the sheer sustainability of these ecoconscious, truly innovative masterworks; homes and businesses that promise to transform and ultimately restore the Australian building industry and built environment.

As we emerge from the ashes of a challenging few years, let us ring in 2022 with the new, the bold, the sustainable, the colourful, the out and out transformative styles of the year, all delivered... By Design!



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CASE STUDY ON BIG HOUSE LITTLE HOUSE

# Practically Black

Words by Bronwyn Aldridge

Project by Chris Brumby of Big House Little House

Building any house is a skill but building a home for you and your family to live in... well that takes a little more courage. Backing himself in, this is exactly what Jace Townsing of Urbane Build did, with the trusted expertise of Building Designer Chris Brumby of Big House Little House, the pair concocted a plan to build this young family a dwelling that not only matched their brief but was friendly on their budget too.



The goal was to create a minimalistic home, utilising an efficient selection of materials which enabled the building to settle back into its surrounding landscape and hero the sweeping views of the northern Toowoomba hills. Really, there was no more suitable product then Weathergroove Natural 75mm by Weathertext.

## Timber is the New Timber

For this home, the Keira residence, achieving the desired look was imperative. Chris and his clients drew inspiration locally and overseas to get an idea of how they wanted the home to present. Authentic burnt timber would have been the dream but at 5 times the price of fabricated alternatives, it just wasn't a practical decision. Weathertex Weathergroove architectural panels ticked a lot of boxes because although the client had a budget to adhere to, they wanted a premium looking timber finish. Chris commented on the appearance of the panels saying, "it was a suitable product because it doesn't look too industrial or too sterile, it's just got a nice variation to it that keeps it looking organic." Unlike other comparable products that can appear plastic-like or be repetitive in their pattern, the Weathergroove panel is a solid contender for being the most attractive material in its field. Chris adds, "I think it's the closest looking product to the real deal"

Contributing to the timber aesthetic is the dark charred ash stain applied once the cladding had been installed. The panels arrived onsite unprimed and staining them took no longer than what painting render, or fiber cement cladding would have done. Staining provides an additional benefit because the oil based colour penetrates the fabricated timber board, nicely contributing to its natural variation, as well as helping to preserve the

material. The black hue will continue to hold its depth, which is quite remarkable for such a dark colour, as this notoriously fades across other applications under our harsh summer sun. Chris says, "driving past Keira in another 5 or 10 years, I think it will still look just as sharp as what it does now."

The Weathergroove Natural comes in varying grooves of 75mm, 150mm, 300mm and 1200mm on the one 3.6m panel. Chris and Jace opted for the 75mm option, a fairly new and welcome offering to the range. "The groove in the board is actually quite pronounced, it's really quite striking and it stands out a lot better to some of the other products which have a small V groove. And sometimes on a large surface you don't pick up the vertical lines too much" Chris explains.

With 3 young boys, Jace and his wife benefit from the cladding having a textured finish to it. Generally flat black surfaces can scratch and scuff easily. Chris adds, "a bonus to the product selection was the fact that it has a rough sawn textured finish, so it hides all manors of sins if the boys are out there kicking a footy into it or riding past on their bikes and putting a little scratch." Being in a rural setting, cobwebs and bugs on the outside are a little more disguisable compared to a flat matte finish, which Chris says he notices a lot on his own shed which is clad with this alternative.







## Efficiency Is Key

Typically, efficiency in design refers to that of a sustainability meaning. Weathertex cladding is very much an all-natural product; made 97% of hardwood and 3% of natural wax, it is responsibly sourced from Australian forests, and it is Global GreenTag certified. However, the appeal of using Weathergroove panels for this project was the ability to be efficient during construction, an important factor for this owner-builder. Time less spent cladding was money saved on trade labour and a nearer completion date. The Weathergroove panels held high value in time efficiency on the Keira residence as the panels are a generous 3660mm in height and 1200mm wide, meaning they go up super quick and cover the full height of the dwelling without the need for additional joins. The quality of the corner strips and joining brackets that are required and supplied by Weathertex have smaller profiles than competitor products, making for neat and seamless transitions.

As the architectural panels are made from timber, they are easy to cut onsite and install. Chris noted, “unlike dust from fiber cement sheets, the timber dust when cut is far more sympathetic and nicer to work with.” It really is a practical solution. Cost efficient, good looking and Australian owned and made, which Chris mentioned was a growing emphasis from clients off the back of the pandemic. It is also worth mentioning that the Weathergroove Natural range, as well as other Weathertex products are rated as high as BAL 19, making them suitable for a wide range of rural properties that may come into bushfire prone zones.

Additionally, Weathertex Weathergroove Natural range is the only timber range on the market to have a 10 year warranty not to rot, crack or split.







The client absolutely adored their finished home. Not only did they enjoy looking at the house, Jace loved that it was a piece of cake to build because the Weathergroove comes in that big panel, so they weren't stuck for weeks installing it. Chris says, "the entire home was clad in 2 or 3 days, so the build efficiency of the home was pretty impressive."

For a 252 square meter home, this minimal design packs a lot in. Chris and Jace were keen to use the single cladding for cost and time efficiency and to keep the home consistent inside and out. "We tried to keep the house as simple as possible so you're just focusing on the outside, focusing on the view, you're not really distracted by anything on the inside, so it was really just about trying to be consistent." On closing comments pertaining to the choice of material selection, Chris concluded in saying "It's just a good solid external cladding which goes together well, looks good, is easy for the boys to install onsite, and being made of natural products it's a win for everyone's health".



# TOP 5 WINDOW TRENDS FOR 2022

Back in 1926, the Bauhaus architect, Hannes Meyer, wrote, “Each age demands its own form.” In our post-COVID, post-Paris Agreement world, these words continue to ring true.

Farzan Naghshineh of Architectural Window Systems (AWS) is tracking the evolution of building-design with interest. “Throughout COVID, people have felt a sense of deep, physical disconnection from each other. They’re also much more aware of the effect of built environments on their health and mental well-being. On top of this, climate change is still a very real concern. In many ways, these things are informing a seismic shift in building design and architecture as well as choices of building products, like windows and doors,” he says. In this article, Farzan identifies what he believes are the top five trends in building design in 2022.



Today, the push  
is on to design  
buildings that  
keep occupants  
safe, productive  
and connected

## 1. Demand for larger openings for windows and doors to surge

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, tuberculosis was Public Enemy Number One. In direct response to society's health concerns, Finnish architect Hugo Alvar Henrik Aalto and his wife, Aino, designed the Paimio Sanatorium. Among other things, the design included expansive windows and wide roof terraces. The aim was to promote patient recovery through an abundance of healing light and air. This concept of 'building as medical machine' was a watershed moment for architecture. In fact, according to Princeton professor, Beatriz Colomina, author of *X-Ray Architecture*, "Tuberculosis helped make modern architecture modern."

In our post-pandemic world, says Farzan, it's the turn of quarantine and social distancing to influence architecture. "Today, the push is on to design buildings that keep occupants safe, productive and connected. People have been cooped up at home for months and they've become very aware of the shortcomings of their personal spaces. I've seen a definite trend towards larger window and door openings that connect the inside and out, give a sense of flow, and flood spaces with natural light."

## 2. Global inflation will make cost-effectiveness non-negotiable

The world is still reeling from the economic impact of COVID, as evidenced by a rise in global inflation. As a result, Farzan points to growing demand for building products that are more cost effective. "It's an economic reality," he says, "and we're seeing a huge upswing in sales of products that accommodate that. For example, we developed our ComfortEDGE™ range with affordability in mind. It's only been on the market for a short time but it's proving extremely popular. Other manufacturers will definitely benefit from factoring affordability into their ranges, particularly given the current economic climate."

Huge windows  
with statement  
framing are  
possible







**Sustainability won't be a luxury choice anymore, but an essential demand," says Farzan**

### 3. Hands-free will be the way of the future

With COVID came a focus on meticulous handwashing to avoid the spread of infection. Farzan sees a direct correlation between this and a growing demand for new hardware and industrial designs that allow people to operate architectural elements like windows and doors without using their hands.

### 4. Ventilation will become an even greater priority

Fresh air is a cornerstone of a healthy building. Farzan believes the demand for clever ventilation solutions will surge in 2022. And there are several options already on the market. "For example, the AWS Trickle Vent allows ventilation even while homes are locked up tightly," he says. "It's all about allowing natural ventilation based on the outside air temperature and balancing the need for good insulation with the desire to have clean, healthy liveable spaces."

### 5. Sustainability will become non-negotiable.

The 2015 Paris Agreement highlighted the impact of the building industry on our planet, and the need for sustainable design and building products. "Sustainability won't be a luxury choice anymore, but an essential demand," says Farzan.

He adds that a main source of energy loss in a building is windows. "Energy loss isn't doing anything to achieve zero carbon emissions and fighting it can cost a fortune in air-conditioning bills. I expect to see an even greater rise in demand for insulated windows, like ComfortEDGE™ or ThermalHEART™, that use new technologies to keep up with market expectations. Rumour also has it that new building-sustainability standards are on the way for the US market, and this will most certainly influence other parts of the world, including Australia."



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# Post Pandemic Construction Boom

STATE OF PLAY, AUSTRALIA WIDE

Words: Slattery

Images: Designer Reece Keil Building Design

Slattery provide insights into how the construction market is responding to Government stimulus and the post pandemic construction boom. What impact has opening up had across the construction market Australia wide?

## The cost escalation forecast and what it means

With new and on-hold projects coming back after lockdowns and long periods of uncertainty, Slattery is predicting an average 4-5% escalation over the next two years across major markets. Smaller markets will continue to struggle to secure supply chains and sub-contractors, with Tasmania pushing the highest escalation at around 12-15%, Perth over 8% and Brisbane 6%.

The inability to attract labour resources and talent across all facets of the building industry will continue to put pressure on pricing. Increases in steel and copper prices, as well as timber shortages, will also have a big impact in driving costs upwards over the next 6-12 months.

2022 is looking to be an exceptionally busy year with a pipeline of government stimulus projects, international borders opening and overall developer confidence increasing.

## Overview of the key impacts on the national market

Slattery have observed the following key impacts on materials:

- Plasterboard shortages are a challenge across the nation.
- Shipping container costs have increased to around \$25,000 each with logistics issues likely to continue for another 12-18 months.
- Due to China's hardline stance on COVID-19 shutdowns and border control, quality control continues to be an issue for overseas joinery and façade manufacturers. As a result, builders are seeking local alternatives for joinery which are likely to be higher in price because of the increased cost of labour.
- China is facing aluminium and power shortages which is expected to place upward pressure on impacted goods'.
- Steel (reinforcement, structural steel members and steel stud) prices are expected to increase again in December.
- Copper prices remain high impacting lighting, AV and cabling supply costs.

By 2030, all Green Star certified buildings will need to have at least a

# 40%

reduction in a building's upfront embodied carbon.





Designer: Reece Keil

## Quality of Facades – the impact of refurbishment and replacement

The 2019 BCA Update introduced higher performance requirements and as a result, facade costs are increasing. A lot of projects affected by this change are only now coming to market and the impact is in its infancy.

Not all sectors will be impacted in the same way. For example commercial office and university projects already have high-performance facades, so there will be some impact. However, there will be a bigger impact on ‘investor’ grade residential apartment projects that typically had single glazed laminated glazing units and now require double glazing throughout.

The industry is now turning its attention to addressing embodied carbon, as both the electricity grid decarbonises and operational carbon decreases due to energy-efficient design. The Green Star Design and As-Built rating tool certifications end on 17 December 2021. The new Green Star Buildings rating tool will incorporate mandatory upfront embodied carbon reduction criteria. 4 Star and 5 Star certifications require at least a 10% reduction in the building’s upfront embodied carbon, and 6 Star certifications will require at least a 20% reduction.

These criteria will become even more stringent over the next 8 years. By 2030, all Green Star certified buildings will need to have at least a 40% reduction in a building’s upfront embodied carbon. NABERS and all levels of government are already looking to incorporate embodied carbon criteria into their RFT submissions.

## Embodied carbon – impact on materials

The concrete industry is leading the way, offering several lower carbon concrete alternatives. Embodied carbon reduction is heavily reliant on concrete (based on Slattery’s carbon data, 30 – 50% of a building’s upfront embodied carbon sits within the structural frame).

Australian manufactured steel is still several years away from producing “green steel” and will rely on the progression/ investment in renewable energy and the phasing out of fossil fuel-powered blast furnaces. Lower carbon steel is available internationally (Europe, North America), however, the transportation emissions need to be factored into any embodied carbon measurements.

Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) is a popular choice for residential and commercial developers. If used instead of a reinforced concrete structure, it potentially reduces a project’s upfront embodied carbon by 35-40% (excluding sequestration). However, there continue to be supply chain issues with CLT.

Embodied carbon – the impact of ESG requirements and Green Star ratings.

## Increased attention on embodied carbon

With Environmental Social Governance (ESG) requirements impacting commercial, health, and build-to-rent REITS – we are seeing a considerable increase in demand for the measurement of embodied carbon.

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# State by State Focus

## CONSTRUCTION TRENDS

Many impacts are common nationally, however each state is facing its own local impacts, opportunities and challenges.

## Victoria

- With Victoria, and in particular Melbourne, are emerging from another year punctuated by lengthy lockdowns. Many consultants and contractors are anecdotally reporting that they are busy with either projects that went on hold because of COVID-19, or new opportunities that were germinated over lockdowns.
- Victoria is challenged with the same material and commodity supply issues that face the rest of Australia. Plasterboard, steel (structural, reinforcement, sheet), aluminium, timber, and curtain walling are all pushing prices up and well above historical benchmark levels.
- The demand for construction materials is being fueled by the competing tensions of a boom in the domestic building versus a significant increase in post lockdown commercial construction. Until manufacturing capacity can catch up, the supply of key materials will likely be an issue through much of 2022.
- Previously, contractors and their supply chains were squeezing their margins to offset material price increases and to remain competitive. For the most part, this is no longer the case and margins are slowly increasing to pre- pandemic levels.
- Escalation is forecast to be 4-5% on average.

Whilst there are a number of projects progressing in design or coming to tender over the next period, there are fewer projects in the

**\$150M+**

category. This is likely to mean that larger contractors and their supply chains will be competitive for any projects of that magnitude.



Designer: Dylan Barber Building Design  
Photographer: Nikole Ramsay

# New South Wales

- Labour shortages continue despite the easing of restrictions. Skills shortages across most trades, management, and professions, continue to drive up wages and preliminaries.
- Margins are still under pressure on small to medium value projects with builders trying to fill order books to maintain cashflow; but with material and labour prices continuing to rise, liquidity continues to be a concern.
- With larger stimulus projects starting to come online, there appears to be less pressure on margin for higher- value projects. Recent increases in material and labour prices are being passed on in tender returns.
- Build to Rent interest remains high with several site acquisitions and project announcements. Build to Sell products are now gaining more traction after a lull.
- Escalation is forecast to be approximately 4-5% next year.



## Increasing material prices

continue to push tenders up like other states, with supply chain shortages of timber and facades starting to cause program delays on larger projects.



Designer: Ibrahim Mustapha

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# Queensland

- Tenders in Queensland are currently extremely volatile with limited trade coverage and large differences between prices received. This is made worse with the summer holiday period and a large volume of tenders coming to market.
- Supply chain issues continue to be a challenge with all trades reporting difficulties in obtaining materials on time.
- Supply chain networks are predicted to return to normal in mid-2022 with price volatility levelling over time.
- The construction market is buoyant, especially in areas such as the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast where migration is driving residential development.
- The housing sector, driven by migration and stimulus, will enable other sectors, such as retail, industrial, followed by schools and health. Health is a focus for state government with hospitals preparing for possible longer-term COVID-19 implications.
- The labour force is also an issue with several trades reporting difficulties in finding people to deliver the volume of work currently on the books and forecast for next year.
- Developers are trying to source non-EBA contractors due to the reduced price point difference. However, the non- EBA trade prices are also increasing with demand.
- The Brisbane Olympics in 2032, is a very welcome boon that will drive investment and federal funding over several years.
- As of January 1, new legislation under the Building Industry Fairness Act mandates the establishment of project trust accounts on private projects over \$10m. It is anticipated the administration of this facility will increase contractor overheads and result in preliminaries cost increases. These rules require developers to pay retention into a trust account, which could affect development cash flow.
- Escalation is forecast to be 5-6% next year.

Contractors with an EBA are currently looking at a reduced site allowance agreement for projects under

**\$50m,**

which has been implemented to enable more competitiveness in this space. This will potentially increase the pool of contractors who can work in this price bracket.



Our  
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# Western Australia

- General building escalation in Perth is running at approximately 8-8.5% year on year, however, the cost of 'selling' the risk to contractors is between 12-15%.
- Steel (reinforcement and structural), glass and concrete remain unpredictable with suppliers refusing to hold pricing beyond that month or even guarantee supply beyond the month. Labour intensive (form & pour, partitioning, etc) and services trades are not able or willing to commit to forward work which is keeping their pricing high, especially outside metropolitan areas.
- Labour availability is expected to ease as the ability to gain resources from the east coast increases in line with vaccination uptake. Without this intrastate resourcing, the WA market will face an increasing strain on labour availability.
- As with other locations, nationally and internationally, the availability of key materials has required creative redesign and engineering of projects across WA. Exacerbated by its remoteness, Perth is increasingly suffering from availability leading to price stress.
- The Residential sector is seeing a focus on suburban housing, utilizing government incentives which have slowed the uptake in apartments. Build to Rent is finally starting to make an impact with significant schemes in their infancy. The new stock of social and affordable accommodation is slow to come to fruition.
- Riverside CBD projects, particularly in Elizabeth Quay, are contributing to a strong commercial sector at present.
- Once these are completed it will lead to an inevitable slowdown as the backfill space is slowly absorbed.
- Impacting the Tier 2 contracting community is the significant gulf between the government's high value and high projects, such as Metronet and Edith Cowan University (ECU), and their smaller projects. The ECU EOI for contractors closes soon and represents a significant stage in the Perth City Link. Post restrictions, the Southwest tourism sector is expected to grow, generating a pipeline of investment in the Busselton / Margaret River area.
- Should Scarborough and Pluto Train 2 developments proceed, it will further stretch resources in the Pilbara but it will enhance WA's international position in the LNG export market. With iron ore remaining at circa US\$100/T, continued development and labour shortages will put pressure on production costs.

The main pressure release will be vaccine-related border opening, first nationally then later internationally, and resources that can then be brought in. Realistically that will be at the end of quarter three 2022 at the earliest. It is estimated that will 'settle' the increases at circa

# 5%

but not in the short term.

- A large gulf has opened between Tier 1 contractors and a crowded Tier 2 field. As a result, Tier 1 capacity is at its limit, while many Tier 2 contractors have incomplete order books and competition is still strong in the Perth metropolitan market. Regionally, the ability to resource projects outside the metropolitan area remains a concern for contractors.



Designer: Distinct Building Company

Photography: Serena Pearce Pearce of Code lime Photography

# South Australia

- Similar to the rest of the nation, the market is very busy with material shortages being reported against most trades but particularly insulation, steel, timber, and plasterboard.
- These material shortages are resulting in program issues as well as an upward cost pressure. These challenges are being felt across both the residential and commercial building sectors.
- State Government capital works are at an all-time high with a new Women's and Children's hospital, a redevelopment of the Queen Elizabeth hospital, a potential new stadium, a sports institute, and significant works at Flinders University.
- The education sector is busy with spending across a program of projects. There are also large defence projects that are due to come to tender in the short term.
- The education sector is busy with spending across a program of projects. There are also large defence projects that are due to come to tender in the short term.
- Escalation is predicted to be at least 4% per annum.

The private sector is also buoyant with North Adelaide and Port Adelaide being

**hot spots**

for medium density residential.



Designer: Bronwyn Aldridge, Brilliant SA  
Photographer: Aaron Citti



Designer: Jessica Markwick, Brilliant SA  
Photographer: Aaron Citti

South  
Australia

# Tasmania

- Several large-scale projects by the University of Tasmania in the north of the state will continue to absorb a large percentage of market capacity through to the end of 2023. The roll-out of their program in the south of the state in early 2022 will then begin to put increased pressure on the southern market.
- Housing demand across all sectors is increasing with migration from VIC and NSW. With the State & Federal Government first home buyer grants being maintained, additional pressure and resultant price increases are forecast to continue for at least 24 months.
- Supply issues on steel and LVL timber products (as is also experienced in other states).
- Labour shortages will continue to be experienced with previous reliance on labour from other states not being possible due to national demand as well as ongoing uncertainty on COVID-19 travel restrictions.
- The labour shortages are impacting all trades with contractors competing for labour resulting in reasonable wage increases. It is anticipated that this will increase throughout 2022.
- State government stimulus measures including a Headworks Holiday and the Building Project Support Program will trigger marginal projects placing increased pressure on an already extended market.



Rumours of

# 30%

cost increases over the last year continue to circulate. These levels are limited to small scale refurbishment projects (largely residential) and are driven more by opportunistic pricing rather than bona fide market drivers.



# Tasmania

Designer: Lachlan Walsh Design  
Photographer: Dylan Proctor





# Kitchen and Bathroom Trends

Words by Bronwyn Aldridge, Bronz DC

Australian design is leaning heavily into our own backyard for inspiration around colours and materials. At a time where the world has been forced to nestle at home for a while, it seems fitting that the design elements we choose come from our natural surroundings, further enhancing our desire for an indoor-outdoor way of life.

Designer: Bronwyn Aldridge, Brilliant SA  
Photographer: Aaron Citti



Designer: Hilit Einav  
 Photographer: Rebecca Lu Photography



Designer: Reece Keil

The residential construction industry has certainly been one to benefit from the Covid outbreak, with home renovations skyrocketing over the last 2 years and not showing any signs of slowing. While the government stimulus was a contributor to this, when it comes to the kitchen and bathroom industry, we find that these areas are attracting big focus from busy families who are now spending a lot more time together in the one location. For many, it has become apparent that their tired bathroom doesn't cater for the increased frequency of use, nor does the heightened amount of home prepared meals do a dysfunctional kitchen any favours. Several families are choosing to reallocate travel savings on their home, and with a real estate market that is also running hot, it has never been a better time to add value to their own property.

## Australian Inspo

When black tapware came onto the market, several industry professionals assumed it would be short lived, much like the waves of rose gold before it. Surprisingly, this was a trend that took off massively, starting with a fleeting industrial style before migrating into a big contemporary favourite; being used as an accent throughout design, or featuring as the main event. As we enter 2022, could this be the year that finally says goodbye to black tapware? We know that WA demand quickly declined due to their unforgiving hard water. And although black fixtures were slowly adopted in SA, chrome remains the safe choice for many homeowners. But lead by the Eastern States and happily adopted everywhere has been the likes of brushed nickel, gunmetal and brushed gold. It would seem there is a gravitation toward metal finishes that emulate our rugged country's natural minerals.

We are not only seeing this trend in tapware but also joinery, as manufacturers of leading laminate and timber products are releasing palettes to complement our native bushland. In cabinet doors we have earthy greens, ocean blues, dusty browns and even metallics entering supplier ranges. Fabricators of benchtops are cutting concrete-look and natural stone patterns across a multitude of products from engineered slabs to solid surface sheets as well as the real deal in granite to name just a few. The amount of choice in materials for homeowners is abundant to say the least. But the true consistency between them all is the great variety of natural landscape selection.

## Celebrating Curves

Clean lines have dominated the show for several years now, as working with squares is generally the best way to maximise a space. However, curves quietly crept back in a couple of years ago and are about to make a statement big enough to rival the Art Deco era. Manufacturers of various products have caught wind, fabricating innovative new products for designers to specify, making it easier and more cost effective to implement a sleek radius into their design.

Round edges can soften a space by balancing the common sharp square edges. The curves we are now seeing in benchtops, cabinets and even feature shower walls (sorry to our tilers!) add incredible interest to any kitchen or bathroom area.



## Products Galore

Perhaps combating a growing supply shortage is simply the incredibly large number of products on the market, meaning there has never been a better time to truly create a bespoke design for your home. When it comes to kitchen projects, the infinite choice of appliances can be a little confusing, but there really is suitable and quality products for every price point. Something for consumers and designers to be aware of is the quantity of differing appliance dimensions out there; no longer are standard sizes a sure thing! We are seeing this across the board from refrigerators to washing machines and ovens. As products develop and new international brands enter the Aussie market, it pays to double check your appliance clearances. However, the opportunity for owners to create their custom home with new innovative products is quite exciting! Another segment that is boasting with possibility are tile boutiques. Consumers can be forgiven for becoming overwhelmed with the choices of ceramic and porcelain available; small mosaics, large format and now three-metre-long sheets.

When it comes to designing your dream home, any look can be achieved for any price point. If you can't afford real timber flooring, hybrid planks now look incredibly realistic, and these will remain popular for some time to come due to their versatility and aesthetic. Terrazzo-look porcelain tiles are going down as quickly as old 60's terrazzo is being pulled up, except in this tiling revival a greater colour and size selection in aggregate dispersion is available. And do subway tiles ever really go out of fashion?! There is such an abundance of options and designers aplenty to help you pull it all together. When it comes to designing your kitchen, bathroom or laundry in 2022, "you do you!" At a time where appreciation for our own nest is at it's greatest, why not turn your home into the place you crush on every single day? Your style, your budget, your home.





Consumers can  
be forgiven  
for becoming  
overwhelmed  
with the choices  
of ceramic and  
porcelain available

Designer: Adam Hobill





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# Colour Choice

Words by Christine McCoy, COLORBOND® steel Colour and Design Consultant

With so many upheavals globally over the past two years, it has brought about changes in attitudes to our surrounds. Awareness of our landscape's natural beauty has reinvigorated our desire to own a piece of paradise and this has become the reality for many. We are looking for sustainable, resilient and enduring materials that mimic the strength and beauty found in the natural environment.



Designer: Bianca Gemmill

There is a new focus on transforming our spaces to better accommodate for the challenges we've all faced recently. Homes had to become offices, schools, workout spaces, our weekend away and our everyday and now we are out of lockdown we are using large spaces for entertaining family and friends. We have come to love our homes regardless of where they are and have learnt what we would like & need, so many are building from scratch. Walks around the neighbourhood have given us inspiration and let us appreciate the landscape we are surrounded by.

COLORBOND® steel gives you an opportunity to explore, design or build using a great range of colours – inspired by Australia. The landscape your house is surrounded by or the landscape you are inspired by, is a great start for your colour palette and the most successful colour schemes often synchronise with the surrounds.

New trends in colours, textures, building shapes and lines have all been inspired by nature. Designs are using the corrugated profile we all know in new and exciting ways as well as seeing roofs with flatter, broader profiles to show line and texture. Entrances, stairways, walls and windows feature curved shapes and large textured material that mimic the strength and beauty of the landscape.





Designer: Justin Dykes of Solis Haus  
 Photographer: Mary Grace Photography

The right choice  
 of roof colour  
 means you have a  
 large part of your  
 exterior colour  
 scheme already  
 worked out

Looking at colours which have become so familiar on our interiors, we can see the transfer of the warm, organic colours onto our exterior materials. There's always room for greys but there is also a new trend to paler colours. So how does this translate to the COLORBOND® steel colour range?

The change in colour trends starts at the roof. Greys are softer and warmer, reflecting the undertones of our native trees. Woodland Grey®, Wallaby®, Dune® and Evening Haze® are the new go-tos.

Fresh coastal looks have become softer too; Surfmist® will always be a favourite but using warmer colours such as Dune® and Evening Haze® works beautifully with timber, natural stone and recycled bricks. Using the paler Shale Grey™ has always been a contemporary favourite and Windspray® gives us a neutral crispness.

With a retro use of colours like Manor Red®, Pale Eucalypt® and Ironstone® we are starting to see a new bolder look on some architectural builds. Darker schemes have become a little softer with Wallaby®, Basalt® and a timeless favourite Woodland Grey®.

It has become so important to have a greater understanding about building for the long term, and selecting materials that will stand the test of time. COLORBOND® steel incorporates Thermatech® solar reflectance technology which is designed to reflect more of the sun's heat on hot sunny days. Thermatech® technology optimises the solar reflectance properties in every colour (except Night Sky®) in the standard COLORBOND® steel range.

## So why do people pick COLORBOND® steel roofs?

- Proven durability and long-life performance.
- Colour and design confidence, with colour schemes for designs- not just roofs
- Thermal efficiency and comfort
- Easy maintenance
- Strength of an iconic brand

The right choice of roof colour means you have a large part of your exterior colour scheme already worked out – letting the rest flow from the outside to in. COLORBOND® steel has been used on everything from roofs and garages, to tiny homes and large commercial buildings. With continuous investment in technology and innovation, COLORBOND® steel keeps pace with the changing needs of the building industry and building design regulations, ensuring it stays beautiful, strong and durable.



## COLORBOND SWATCH SAMPLES



Woodland Grey®



Wallaby®



Dune®



Evening Haze®



Surf Mist®



Shale Grey™



Windspray®



Manor Red®



Pale Eucalypt®



Ironstone®



Basalt®

HUMAN-EXPERIENCE DESIGN IS A

# Powerful Opportunity

Words from Genster  
Designer: David Manche



The pandemic underscored the need to prioritise health while racial injustice and the ongoing threat of climate change in 2020 put a new spotlight on issues of equity and sustainability. All these challenges put a focus on people and their needs and expectations. That's why people-first design is now the new currency in building communities. Creating a built environment that motivates us to leave our homes requires a more holistic design approach focused on people's experiences. Design must understand what drives behavior, promotes human interaction, and

optimises effectiveness. If we've learned anything from the pandemic, it's that we need in-person human interactions — both for our health and wellbeing, and for the economy. Coming back together is how we will emerge. This is why so many “back-to” plans revolve around this equation. How can we bring people back together safely and provide spaces that allow them to feel healthy, inclusive, and purposeful? The answer can be found through the power of design, and its ability to address the evolving human needs and expectations in a new world.



### **We Seek Out Places that Support Social Connections**

Places that support community and social connection perform better, from higher job satisfaction in the workplace, to a greater likelihood of recommendation for retail stores and public spaces.

THE PERFECT CIRCLE:

# Throwing a Curveball into Design

After years of hopelessly and admittedly 'square' home and business designs, the designers of 2022 plan to throw a real 'curve'ball into their schemes, one that promises to bring both sublime comfort and optimum style to any living or working place.

Curved design is a trend that most literally veers away from the squared, staunchly geometric design scheme that dominates the vast majority of projects. And, while curved design certainly is a novel trend, it is far from unprecedented.

During the Art Deco period of the 1920s, a style that emphasised novelty of shape and form, we saw curved furnishings that included soft, round and scalloped chairs and benches, mirrors and naturally elegant arched artworks, arches and entryways, plus corniced ceilings adorned with sparkly circular chandeliers often shining in luminous pastel hues, as per the glamour and richness of that time period. In its sleek edges, smooth contours and endless creative possibilities, the curve seemed the signature shape of this significant style period. More than half a century later, the blindingly brilliant home fashions of the 1980s often came contoured in form.

Through the years, designers have treated curved furnishings and décor as accents in home and commercial design. Indeed, we've all seen curved coffee tables in living and family rooms, kitchen islands and tables in home and public dining areas, decorative vases, portraits, clocks and mirrors throughout, bathtubs and sinks in the bathroom, etc.

## Just how many more curves does one need?

Well that of course is something of a trick question, with the correct answer being, "One never can sport enough curves in their high end designs!" Well perhaps that's a bit of an overstatement, but—as per the trend known

as curved contour just about anything can be 'graded on a curve' in terms of furniture and décor. You might see rounded or curved couches, bar designs, pool decks, arched plant walls, wall shelves, sculptures, hanging lamps, curved valances, roly poly arm chairs, storage consoles, chaise lounges, kitchen chairs, wall art and collectibles, lounge chairs, pendant lamps, and artsy alcoves, roll pillows, curved staircases and benches.

When it comes to 2022 design trends, curved is coming 'round' again!

Moreover, You might find all of these delightful arched accents collected and arranged between curved walls and beneath curved ceilings. Yep, right's right, it might be more difficult to find a 'quiet corner' of one's home, that basically and essentially lacks corners. Yet the room will be rockin' in terms of its beauty and novelty.

In the commercial sphere, more and more hotels and restaurants in particular will feature curved tables and chairs, bars, and, yes, those curious walls and ceilings again.





Curved Appeal is  
one of the many  
Weathertex  
Sustainable  
Design Trends  
for 2022



View Weathertex  
Sustainability Design Trends  
2022 magazine online or  
request a free hardcopy



# Curve Appeal

It's not a surprise human loves curves. In a 2013 neuroarchitectural study, it was found that participants were more likely to judge curvilinear spaces more favourable than rectilinear.



Curved or circular patterns provide relief and softness to straight and angular lines and balance the harshness of too many straight lines. Curved lines give a human quality to interiors; they can be easy on the eyes and pleasing to view.

However, not all architects and builders are keen to incorporate curved walls because there is a perception that it can be a costly and complicated exercise to achieve. Not with Weathertex products, especially with their super flexible planks!

Weathertex Selflok primed and natural range weatherboards are warranted up to 25 years with a radius curve of 2500mm when installed horizontally. If you favour the vertical linear, use the wide range of Weathergroove primed and natural architectural panels where they are warranted with a radius curve of 7500mm.

For more curved vertical grooved designs, Weathergroove panels can be cut down and segmented around a curve of min 1200mm radius. Although outside Weathertex warranty specifications, it can still meet building code requirements with the help of an expert builder.



**The Curved Appeal design trend is a cladding forecast that Weathertex expects to make big curves in 2022!**

# Garage Door Timber Trends

When it comes to choosing a garage door for your residential and commercial property, you have several options, and in 2021, timber is certainly among them.

Wooden garage doors, whether overhead or sectional add a style and class to your home and come with several benefits.



## CUSTOMISATION

With wooden doors, you have limitless customisation options. You can choose various kinds of timber species, stains, or colours that add a curb appeal to your home.



## ECO-FRIENDLY

Being a renewable resource timber is more eco-friendly than any other material for your doors. And in case, a specific portion of your door gets damaged, you have the option to replace that portion rather than changing the entire door.



## TIMELESS

The wood door's timelessness charm is unmatched. From traditional to modern, rustic, and classic, you can choose any that meet your home or office exterior.



## STRENGTH

Wooden garage doors are considered the heaviest door so that makes them also one of the safest. If you are unhappy with the integrity, security, and insulating capacity of your existing garage door - but feel that it doesn't suit the style of your home, lacks character, or you just need a change, then cladding your garage door with timber is a great option.

## So, what is Garage Door Cladding?

Garage door cladding is a method of covering the existing garage door panels and frames with a different material. This is usually done on the exterior of the garage door to give it a new, fresh look.

Weathertex is a popular choice for garage door cladding. Cladding is increasingly becoming popular, and it's not a thing for only garage doors but various types of doors and walls.





## Why you should consider garage door cladding

Many homeowners start looking into cladding because of their garage door's design, as they are not happy with the overall look it gives to their home. This is because they usually buy homes that have a garage door already installed. They had no decision in the selection of their preexisting door.

Timber garage door cladding gives you an excellent way to customize the garage door's look without having to invest in a completely new door. Timber cladding is light enough so it simply makes sense to choose wooden cladding over buying a brand new door if the door is still functional and does not give you any problems.

Safety and protection are part of why homeowners with garage doors decide to clad their doors.

### Why?

Timber garage doors, for instance, are exposed to sunshine, heavy rains, and all kinds of harsh weather conditions that deteriorate it over time.

Some metal garage doors tend to rust after being exposed to the elements (which wooden cladding will prevent). To keep it in good condition, it is crucial to perform routine maintenance.

“Wood is universally beautiful to man. It is the most humanly intimate of all materials.”

- Frank Lloyd Wright

## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF CLADDING YOUR GARAGE DOOR?

Before garage door cladding was a thing, there were a few options available to you if you didn't like the door's design. That is to either paint it or buy a new garage door.

Painting can be effective to some extent, but the garage door's design would still be the same, just in a different colour. Buying a newer garage door with a design you like is an excellent choice.

However, the cost involved makes a lot of homeowners shy away from this option. This makes cladding the way to go, without spending so much.



Wooden garage door cladding can be a great way to improve the curb appeal of the home while protecting the garage door from getting damaged and will prove to be low maintenance throughout its lifetime.

# Homeowners Drive Demand for Sustainable Timber Homes

Sustainable and green homes aren't exactly a new trend. And yet, the demand for sustainable housing solutions continues to grow, with the shift in public perception contributing to the increased acceptance and adoption of 'green' building practices.

Sustainable homes aim to reduce the ecological footprint on the environment, not just during the construction but in the embodied energy used in the creation of the building materials themselves, and in the design of a building that reduces greenhouse gas emission for the home's life span.

Fortunately, one such building material already exists and has the potential to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the building sector, slash waste, store carbon, insulate the home, and uses relatively less energy in its manufacture.

## It's called timber.

Australian homeowners are calling out for sustainable living as we move towards a net zero future. The Australian construction sector is one of our major polluters and responsible for 492 million tonnes of carbon emissions each year. Thankfully, timber is a carbon positive building material, meaning it stores more carbon than is used in its manufacture. It is the most sustainable building material available and is a truly renewable resource that boasts a lower embodied emissions than other building materials such as concrete, aluminium and steel.

In fact, using one cubic metre of timber in a build results in 0.8 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> being locked away within the building. This is because plantation pine absorbs carbon from our atmosphere and about half of each tree is stored carbon that remains in the timber for the life of a building.

Timber has been used for a myriad of applications in building for thousands of years, from decking, framing, cladding... it's a versatile material. However, with the advances in locally manufactured glue laminated timber (GLT), we are now seeing a trend toward engineered timber use in buildings that require high load applications and often these applications are visually expressed adding to the beauty of the building.

GLT beams are created through the process of layering and gluing laminates together to produce larger and longer length members.

**This not only makes GLT beams stronger than solid timber**, but due to its superior strength to weight ratio means that in most instances GLT is a suitable replacement for steel – assisting in reducing a buildings carbon footprint.

There is some poetry in the fact that GLT is often chosen over steel and concrete for its green credentials but its appearance can add to the biophilia in the built environment – helping individuals feel more connected to nature and the earth that sustainable buildings work to protect.

BETTER GET BUILDING.  
**BETTER GET  
BEAM 15**

BEAM  
**15**

### COMING 2022

With the demand for new housing and high-strength timber products at an all-time high, we are introducing Beam 15. An Australian grown and made beam with enhanced availability.

Taking orders in 2022.


- ✓ Enhanced availability
- ✓ Australian grown and made
- ✓ Rigorous third-party compliance testing
- ✓ Suitable for most applications where a GL17 beam would otherwise be specified



Better get building. Better get Beam 15.







Timber is the only construction material that leaves no carbon footprint. We specify timber as much as we can in all of our projects

*Ashley Beaumont*

Designer: Ashley Beaumont

# Reimagining the Future of Work

Words by Gensler

The pandemic has triggered a massive shift in global work patterns. We've learned new behaviors, adopted new technologies, and adjusted to new ways of working. We've also come to a deeper understanding of the fundamental role of place in how we work, especially how we work together. Organisations around the world are rethinking the future of the workplace based on experiences and learnings from the past year, with a particular focus on the well-being and connectivity of their teams.

Collectively, we are reimagining the future of work on a global scale, with the physical office continuing to play a central role in creating more connected, equitable experiences that benefit people, organisations, and their surrounding communities.



## 4 INSIGHTS THAT ARE DEFINING THE NEW WORKPLACE

### 1 The Roles of the Workplace And Office Buildings Are Evolving

Work and place have become uncoupled, redefining the office as the best place to bring people together — especially for those whose jobs rely on in-person collaboration or specific spaces or shared resources. Physical and virtual experiences must be fully integrated since digital systems will continue to shape a seamless level of connectivity and personalisation.

### 2 Culture, Community, and Collaboration Are at the Core of the New Work Experience

The fundamental role the office is shifting to become a place that brings people together to collaborate, to build personal and professional relationships, and to connect with a company's unique business, mission, and purpose. New behaviors, technology, and policies will be required to allow flexible and virtual work to thrive, while also supporting coaching and mentoring and more equitable and inclusive experiences.

### 3 Pre-Pandemic Trends Are Accelerating

Choice, autonomy, health, and well-being have become paramount for individuals and teams to perform at their best. From health checks and touchless security to improved air quality systems, owners and users are focused on healthy buildings and experiences. Outdoor spaces are increasingly becoming part of the workplace environment, with open façades and retrofitted rooftops providing additional work settings.

### 4 Flexibility And Adaptability Are Critical For a Hybrid Workforce

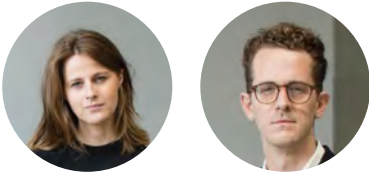
A new hybrid workforce, working both at the office and remotely, is an opportunity to fix the pre-pandemic issues of the workplace, and to explore new real estate strategies. Office buildings will increasingly get smarter to enable office-to-home connectivity and anticipate evolving tenant needs. New workspace approaches must be more responsive to rapidly adjust to new ways of working with flexible spaces and furniture for newly emerging work patterns.

A new hybrid workforce, working both at the office and remotely, is an opportunity to fix the pre-pandemic issues of the workplace, and to explore new real estate strategies



REIMAGINING DESIGN POSSIBILITIES FOR

# Contemporary Residential Architecture



Leading architects collaborate with James Hardie using Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding

James Hardie has partnered with forward-thinking, leading architecture practice, Retallack Thompson to reimagine the Australian home using a new innovation, Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding and its supporting range of corner and junction accessories. Sydney architects Jemima Retallack and Mitchell Thompson were challenged to explore the material and spatial possibilities of Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding.

The result is Corner House, a conceptual extension of a traditional Federation-era brick bungalow in a typical inner-city Sydney suburb, a vision that underscores the brand's ambition to create exceptional cladding solutions for design savvy homeowners.

Embracing distinctive textures, sweeping scale, and every inch of space available, Corner House showcases the design potential and impact of using a singular cladding material across the entirety of the extension creating a new perimeter for the site, reclaiming the edges and underutilised areas of the property as part of the home. With an 'L'-shaped backyard extension paired with a central courtyard garden, Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding

is proposed to wrap the contemporary living room and galley kitchen as well as establish the perimeter fence. The concept gives a unified expression to both the house and garden wall, suggesting that the interior and exterior realms both contribute to making meaningful living spaces.

## “Our ambition was to create

something distinctive that suggests a way we could live in a casual way with an intimate connection to the garden,” says Jemima. “The idea of a perimeter wall containing the whole site allows the building and fence to merge, so it suggests the garden might be a place you can spend time in, as much as inside.”



## To minimise waste,

Corner House was designed to utilise whole cladding panels. The dimensions of the panels enabled Retallack Thompson to work on a grander scale and also determined the sizes of windows and openings. The large exterior of the extension doubles as a garden wall and features an operable screen, which was enabled by the larger 3600mm panel size. The living room is sized at two panels high with a monumental corner window, proposed at two panels wide. Labour costs are minimised during construction with only two tradespeople required to lift the cladding panels into place. “We know it is important to consider how to manage the efficiency and cost of construction. Anything that can expedite that process is good for everyone,” adds Mitchell.

Retallack Thompson treat the garden as a ‘room’ rather than an outdoor space. The scale and privacy of the courtyard garden encourages lively activity and its nature-focused view creates a casual outdoor gathering area. “The arrival courtyard would act as a cloistered informal garden space that you arrive into via a pathway down the side of the house,” adds Jemima. “We imagine that there’s a park around the corner and people are coming and going and there’s an engagement via the fence with the street and neighbourhood.”

The idea of living in a garden influenced the colour choice for Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding on Corner House, with a matte paint in soft grey-green proposed. The natural colour evokes an Australian setting, even in an inner-city suburb. The use of grey-green is also a nod to the vestige eucalypts that characterise many Australian backyards. The singular use of the pre-textured fibre cement cladding showcases its texture and clean lines, while highlighting one of the key design concepts – a bigger awareness of the natural world.

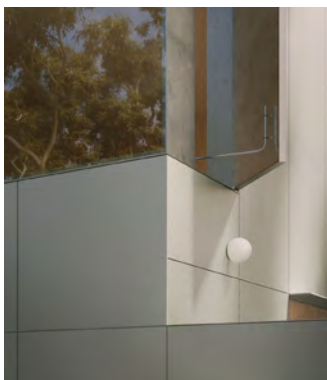
“The cladding has a transcendent quality. It is receptive to changing light across its surface. It darkens with shadows cast by foliage and lightens towards the sky,” explains Jemima. At close range, the pre-textured finish of Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding invites touch, while not visually overwhelming adjacent building materials such as brick.





The subtle expression of vertical joints in Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding is designed to bring a legibility of scale and visual rhythm to the architectural form. “In the past, we have adopted a board-and-batten strategy because we knew it produced a neat detail. In this case, the shiplap joint would give a clean shadow line and there’s no PVC filler,” says Jemima.

The new and architecturally designed slimline corner accessories were created to achieve a mitred corner and create a crisp edge where two panels meet at 90 degrees. The innovation and robust nature of Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding means an architectural level of detail and finish can be achieved on any Australian home or backyard extension.



“The product creates an honest outcome with a material that Australian builders are really familiar with. In our experience when construction is made simple, and when care is taken with the material, it is possible to create something really beautiful,” says Mitchell.

## About Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding

Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding is the latest innovation from James Hardie. The pre-textured fibre cement panels connect with shiplap joints, bringing subtle shadow lines and a gentle vertical rhythm to the façade. The ready-to-paint, pre-sealed surface has a textured finish of fine render which diffuses light and gives a matte finish.

Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding offers architects and designers more creative freedom to explore the possibilities of lightweight construction and considered joint detailing. Panels are supported by a range of corner and junction accessories, also produced by James Hardie. These combined systems streamline the installation process and deliver a consistent, quality finish whilst upholding the integrity of the design.

**For minimal joints and maximum coverage, Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding comes in 120mm wide sheets in common wall heights of up to 3600mm.** It is the ideal cladding choice for non-combustible construction with the added performance benefits of fibre cement such as long-term durability and low maintenance.

## About James Hardie™:

James Hardie Industries is the world’s #1 producer and marketer of high-performance fibre cement and fibre gypsum building solutions. The company empowers homeowners and building professionals alike to achieve the home of their dreams with premium quality solutions that enable endless possibilities for design and aesthetics, while also delivering trusted protection and long-lasting beauty. Key to this effort is the company’s dedication to its customers, market driven innovation, an inclusive and empowering company culture, and an unwavering commitment to its Zero Harm safety initiative.



For more information about James Hardie, visit [www.jameshardie.com.au](http://www.jameshardie.com.au).

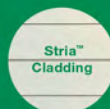
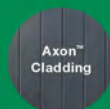
## Design a home that's better outside than in.

Looking for materials to turn your client's dream renovation into a reality? It's Possible™ with the endless styles, profiles and textures from the range of exterior cladding solutions by James Hardie.

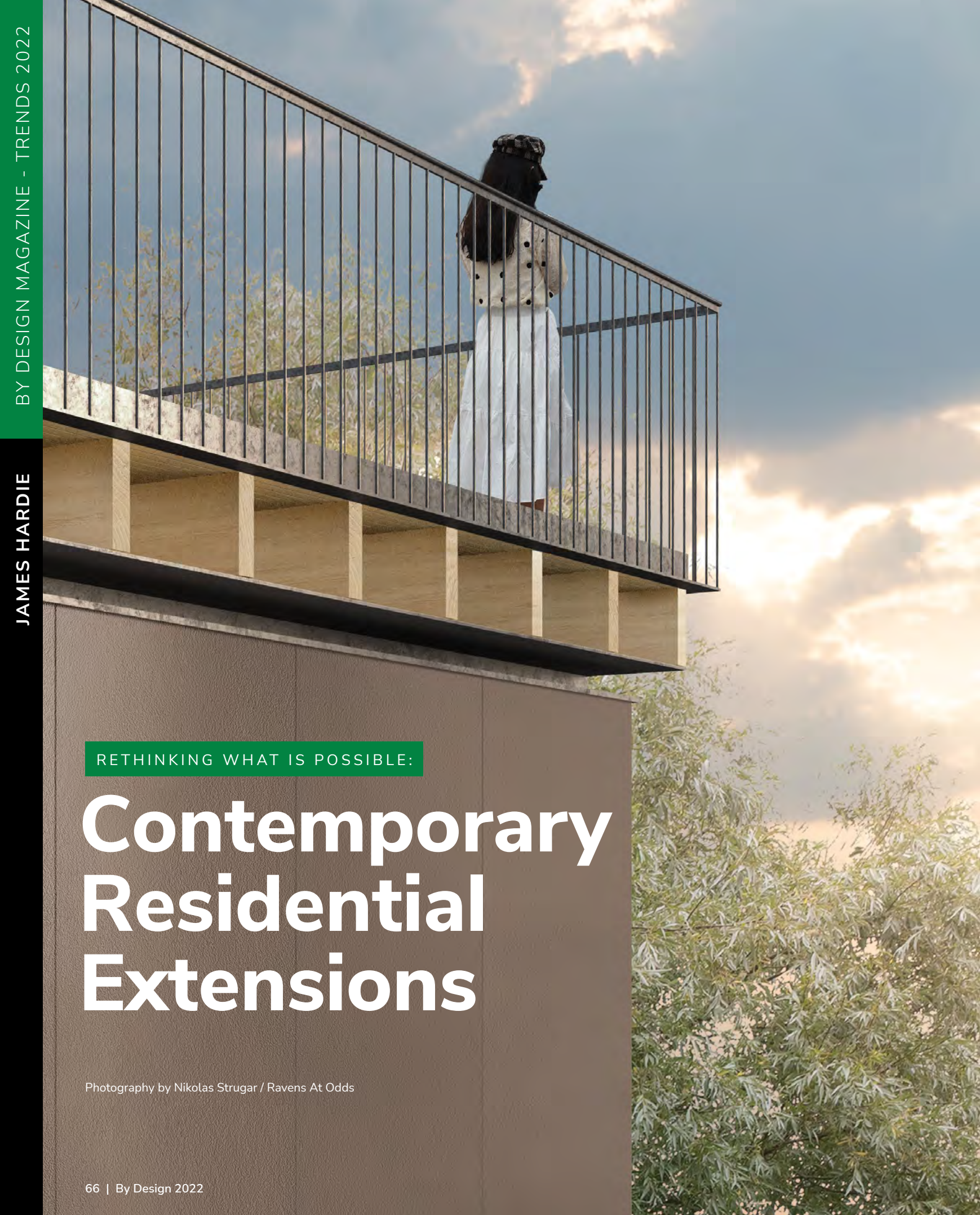
Hardie™ Fine  
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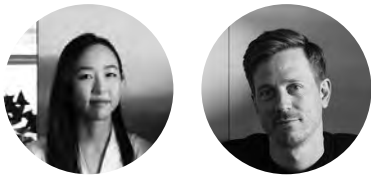


RETHINKING WHAT IS POSSIBLE:

# Contemporary Residential Extensions

Photography by Nikolas Strugar / Ravens At Odds

## Leading architects collaborate with James Hardie using Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding



James Hardie has partnered with Brisbane-based bespoke residential and commercial architects Michael Lineburg and Lynn Wang of Lineburg Wang on a conceptual collaboration which explores what is possible for the Australian home using a new innovation in building material; Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding and its supporting range of corner and junction accessories.

Lineburg Wang's ideas come to life with Pleated House, a conceptual extension of a pre-war Queenslander in inner-city Brisbane which progresses ideas about contemporary living and the evolving relationship between the social rooms of the home and the exterior realm. The exterior of the extension is wrapped in Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding, a pre-textured, fibre cement wall panel, and serves as a soft and stylised backdrop to the garden and its activities.

**The Pleated House design** concept connects a traditional timber Queenslander to the sloping

terrain of a typical Brisbane backyard, creating light-filled, contemporary rooms that open onto a terraced garden. The design carefully stitches together component parts and reinforces a sense of cohesion and freedom in our domestic lives.

“The concept retains the old Queenslander and imagines the new extension as an ‘anchor’ - something that ties the house to the rolling hillside,” Lynn explains. “We wanted to ensure the contemporary architecture didn’t collide with or overwhelm the Queenslander, so it’s designed to be sensitive to and relate to the original house but also be distinct from it.”

The challenge to explore the possibilities and benefits of Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding prompted Michael and Lynn to return to first principles of design. The extension comprises a double-height kitchen and living room with a mezzanine bedroom positioned to look beyond interior spaces toward framed vistas of sky and landscape. Level with the treetops, a roof terrace establishes a platform for gathering and after-dark stargazing.

“We always enjoy the challenge of exploring new products and new ways of construction - whether they be with bricks or blocks or sheet products,” says Michael. “There is a perception that sheet cladding can be one-dimensional, but we don’t think so. We wanted to demonstrate how a sense of movement can be achieved through the layering and pleating of panels and how a sense of depth can be amplified when textured surfaces combine with sunlight and shadow.”



Inspired by the surface of Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding, Michael considered how to accentuate shadows using the cladding. Instead of applying it as a two-dimensional surface, the product is layered from the top down. As a result, this application offers architectural interest through varying surface dimensions and the shadows cast across the textured surface. The pleats of the exterior extension follow the sloping site downhill, creating continuity from the original dwelling and producing different levels for the eye to travel to and from. “The roof terrace over-emphasises this cascading language with an oversized capping to the house below,” says Michael.

Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding wraps the tall rooms of the extension giving its robust form a luminescent, textural finish. “We wanted to celebrate the fact that the cladding is self-sufficient in the sense that it doesn’t rely on cover battens or stop mouldings to be waterproof,” Lynn says. “The cladding can turn a corner seamlessly and abut another sheet with a simple shiplap joint.”

The facade of Pleated House expresses the subtlety and rhythm of such panel connections. A strong datum is struck by horizontal joints establishing the pleated expression of overlapping edges - similar to the way the chamfer boards of the adjacent Queenslander overlap. “We wanted to amplify the textural quality of the cladding to create depth in the facade,” Michael says.

## Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding’s

thin, sleek panels and lapping created a threshold between indoors and outdoors. The 8.5 millimetre panels have shiplap joints on the long edges, enabling a clean look and versatile implementation. “The varying sheet heights of Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding (ranging from 2440mm to 3600 mm) were used to manage datums of the pleats, that in turn relate back to the existing cottage and its own material datums,” says Lynn.

For Pleated House, Lineburg Wang used full-length 3600mm panels to create a top-heavy form and a pleated, layered



detail that accentuates the shadow and texture already inherent in the cladding. To promote cost efficiency and ease of construction, Lineburg Wang designed the extension to embrace the inherent qualities of Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding. “The dimension of the sheet guided the size of the bespoke windows and doors,” Lynn says. “The tall window, for example, sits in the place of a 3.6 x 1.2 metre panel with the sliding door the equivalent dimension of 5 panels.”

To reinforce a sense of mass, windows and doors have deep, oversized reveals. This is particularly apparent on the ground floor, where the exterior wall folds inside to create a metre-deep recess. Hardie™ 9mm Aluminium External Slimline Corners are integrated to achieve crisp corner junctions. “The kitchen has become a key social space - the heart of the home,” Michael says. “It is rarely the back-of-house zone it once was, so our concept focuses on the kitchen as a social room adjacent to outdoor space, offering connection to both its immediate and broader landscape.”

More information about the Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding Architect Collaborations, go to [www.jameshardie.com.au/partnerships/james-hardie-architect-collaborations](http://www.jameshardie.com.au/partnerships/james-hardie-architect-collaborations).



### Order a Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding Sample & Accessory Kit

Do you think Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding could be suitable for one of your upcoming projects? Order the Sample and Accessory Kit to get a feel for the product and experience first-hand how seamlessly the cladding panels integrate with our smart accessories.



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CLICK TO ORDER  
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JAMES HARDIE + PRESTON LANE

# Rethink What Is Possible



Architects Nathanael Preston and Daniel Lane of Melbourne and Hobart architecture firm, Preston Lane have been exploring new architectural facade concepts using Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding and its supporting range of junction and corner accessories. Their speculative project, Zig-Zag House, creates a striking form and proposes an arresting addition to a Melbourne laneway. Zig-Zag House reimagines what is possible with Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding.

"The experimental nature of this collaboration prompted us to think about Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding differently," Preston explains. "What we discovered is that the lightweight, user-friendly panels can be used to create some new and really interesting concepts." Using 600mm wide Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding panels arranged at 90 degrees with internal and external corner junctions, Preston Lane created the concertina facade concept. Their design proposes a contemporary two-storey residential extension to complement an Edwardian Terrace in Melbourne. "We thought a flat facade could look austere," Lane says. "But with the fine texture finish and this folding form, it appears dynamic and captures great shadows as the sun moves across it." Elegantly framed by a custom ridge cap, the folding facade incorporates an integrated glazing unit that would frame views of the neighbourhood.

The lightweight cladding wrapping the upper storey ensures floor area is maximised and the ground level can exploit large, open spans. From the ground floor, the social rooms are designed to open onto a sunny courtyard. "An ambition of every project we work on is to establish a strong relationship with the outside," Preston says. "Generally, older houses have small windows and

poor outdoor connections so it's something we're always trying to remedy in contemporary architecture." The idea to include a central courtyard brings a nature-focused outlook while ensuring the interior feels expansive and has ample daylight and airflow. "In places like Melbourne and Hobart it can get quite cold so to be sat inside and still feel like you're part of the outside is critical," Lane explains. "Integrating architecture and landscape helps to strengthen that connection."

The relationship between the interior and exterior as well as adjacent rooms has been carefully considered in the design of Zig-Zag House. "Getting those relationships between spaces is something we work hard to achieve," Lane says. "We play with scale and material finish to achieve balance and ensure spaces feel open and connected and not vacant." The dining room is a good example; it is designed to be open to the kitchen inside and the herb garden outside. "There's a built-in banquette seat that the dining table pushes against," Preston explains. "You can sit there with the sun on your back, with garden between you and the laneway, and you can reach out and snip off your basil for your bolognese or your thyme for your chicken."

The corridor bridging old and new is also afforded special attention. Here the concertina folds of Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding are painted grey, distinguishing them from the upper storey while bringing a tactile and luminous backdrop to the courtyard garden. “Given the recent experience of lockdown, particularly in Victoria and New South Wales, we wanted to integrate a study that would have a view out and be a space that everyone would want to work from,” Lane says. Capturing a view of the garden, the workspace is positioned beside a glazed section of the concertina envelope. “I think it’s something we’ve been trying to integrate into our project for years,” Lane explains. “Study spaces like these have become critical to ensuring we can successfully work from home.”

“For us, good design means being comfortable inside but also being aware of the sky and the landscape around you while feeling that you are part of a community,” Preston explains. With its eye-catching form, Zig-Zag House encourages chance interaction between home and passersby. “We wanted to open the living spaces up to the street while balancing privacy with the opportunity for outlook,” Preston says. “We think it would be fun to interact with the zig-zagging edges of this form, to be under it and next to it. For those walking past, the experience of the architecture changes with the approach and the journey beyond the house.” The versatility of Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding means there are no limits to the formal expression of the envelope. Preston Lane’s design demonstrates that distinctive forms can be both affordable and achievable with Hardie™ Fine Texture Cladding.



## “For us, good design means being comfortable inside

but also being aware of the sky and the landscape around you while feeling that you are part of a community,” Preston explains.



# SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

CAN BE A DIFFERENTIATOR AND A DRAW

Words by Genster, Designer: Alejandro Urena Sandoval

While the pandemic is first and foremost an issue of human health and safety, it has also created an awareness of the industry's role in sustainability. Ecoconscious travelers are looking to "slow travel," or sustainable tourism where guests can connect with nature while minimizing their environmental impact. Of commercial buildings, hotels are among the highest per square foot energy and water users. According to the Urban Land Institute, sustainable building practices are increasingly being incorporated throughout the hotel sector to add value and provide a competitive edge.

## Residential

The need for affordable and workforce housing was a reality before 2020, but social justice movements, the pandemic, and climate events have put a new spotlight on the pressing need for innovative, effective housing solutions. We must identify meaningful, insightful solutions to address housing shortfalls and the severe costs of delivering housing for a diverse society.

### Affordable Housing Needs A New Approach

The cost to deliver much needed housing is rising at unsustainable rates, exacerbating the housing crisis in cities around the globe. To change this course, we need to develop innovative, affordable, and inclusive housing solutions. Identifying ways to reduce the cost of housing through construction techniques, regulatory reform, and operating expenses will be key. Prefabricated modular construction will be an industry gamechanger, potentially cutting production time in half and reducing costs by 20% compared to conventionally built projects.

# BLE

The rental stock is unaffordable to low-income renters

**<10%**

since 2010, fewer than 10% of rental units are affordable to U.S. Renter households earning 50% of median renter income (mri).

- Freddie Mac Multifamily

## Continued Wfh Will Influence Residential Design

As working from home gains traction and the lines between live, work, and play increasingly blur, spaces inside and out of residential units will need to be designed for increased versatility while promoting productivity. Increased demand for remote work will introduce new types of common areas and more flexibility in amenity spaces. Since work now happens anywhere, residential common areas should become versatile, transformable social spaces — addressing multiple work “modes,” such as collaboration and socializing.

**2/3 Roughly two-thirds of workers across our global surveys want a hybrid of home work and office work. Very few want to work from home full time post-pandemic.**

- Gensler global workplace surveys 2020

## Inclusive Housing Drives Increased Access To Opportunity

The global void of affordable and subsidized housing, on top of decades of discrimination, has created real strains. The growing desire for social equity will help drive the need to build more inclusive housing. To increase opportunities in historically marginalized communities, designers and developers should look to infill housing, including “missing middle” housing — diverse, affordable housing options, such as duplexes, fourplexes, cottage courts, and multiplexes — in job-rich and education-rich neighborhoods.

## Increased Appreciation For Healthy Fresh Air Is Blurring The Line Between Indoors And Outdoors

In the wake of a global health crisis, people are craving increased connection to the outdoors, including private outdoor open space for dwelling units. This will drive increased demand for private balconies and outdoor open space, especially in dense and high-rise multifamily residential projects. Residential developments that address key aspects of healthy living, such as increasing fresh air through natural ventilation and access to nature through biophilic design strategies, will have an edge.

# Sustainability

Sto is a technology leader in the field of sustainability for modern construction, with sustainable systems ranging from globally successful facade insulation through to active renders and coatings, and acoustics.

The Sto "sustainability compass" is the basis of our sustainability strategy and helps to manage new challenges as they emerge. It encompasses four areas: well-being, ecology, economy, and society.



## Well-being

Sto products are designed to contribute to the overall sustainability of a project, providing benefits including; protection and extended life cycle of building facades; reduction of maintenance requirements; health and well-being; as well as being free of solvents, plasticisers and extremely low on emissions. More-over many of our products are certified to accredited standards and include performance declarations such as Environmental Product Declarations (EPD's) and in-house Sustainability Data Sheets (SDS).



## Economy

Sto has positioned itself in the building coatings market as a supplier of quality products and systems with a high degree of technological expertise and services. Sto incorporates sustainable practices throughout its state-of-the-art production facilities. Earning ISO 9001 certification for its quality management system and ISO 14001 certification for its environmental management system. These certifications relate to the entire process chain, from the procurement of the raw and recycled materials, to production, packaging and logistics.



## Ecology

Sto's core business is the manufacture of facade systems that contribute to significant savings in energy use through the effective insulation of buildings. Sto energy-efficient facade systems make a significant contribution to environmental protection by reducing air pollution and improving the global climate. In fact, since 1965, the use of Sto facade insulation systems has resulted in a reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by over 247 million tons.



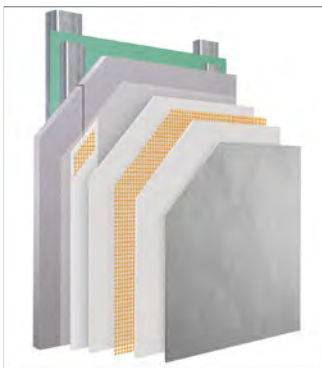
## Society

Commitment to social issues forms part of a long-standing tradition at Sto. We assume responsibility for our employees as well as the places we work in and the people we work with. Sto Australia supports many of our employees as they commit themselves to social projects outside of work, plus we are also committed to supporting organisations through sponsorship.

# Sto Render Systems

Flexibility to realise your most demanding designs

Project: Bunjil Place, Vic, Au  
Architect: Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp (FJMT)



StoArmat Render Systems provide the perfect reinforcing render for an extensive range of exterior substrates. StoArmat, an organic, cement-free and breathable, high-impact render, with a crack resistance six-times higher than that of standard cement-based plasters, ensures maximum system reliability for building facades. Sto Render Systems are finished in a choice of different Stolit finishing renders (in almost any colour) for a complete weather-tight and sustainable solution, with warranty. [www.stoaustralia.com.au](http://www.stoaustralia.com.au)

# Building Better Basements

Recent housing trends are seeing many homes increasing in size, whilst land is becoming more and more scarce.



Block sizes in many urban areas are becoming smaller and building restrictions often make it difficult to counter these issues by going up. Despite this, homeowners are still demanding a space away from the main home to accommodate modern lifestyles and interests. Many are exploring the possibility of making room for their home office, cellar, cinema or gym by creating additional spaces underground.

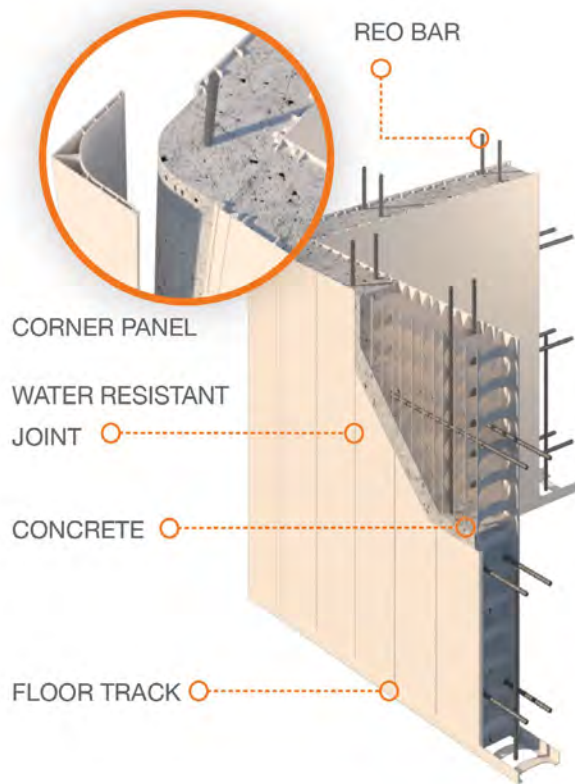
AFS Rediwall® is a versatile permanent formwork system for building solid and compliant structural walls and is perfect for constructing below ground spaces. It is an innovative system made of lightweight prefabricated high-quality panels that simply snap or slide into place, dramatically reducing installation times and building waste.

AFS Rediwall® can be finished with a skim coat, Gyprock® internal lining or by applying an acrylic render to ensure you are able to achieve the exact look you are after. When used together with Bradford Soundscreen™ wall insulation and Hebel PowerFloor® between the basement and ground floor, you are adding a thermal and acoustic barrier that is perfect for any music studio or home theatre application.

AFS Rediwall® is Australian made, Codemark certified, meets AS3600-2018 concrete structures standards and carries a 25-year product warranty. AFS Rediwall® offers an onsite support and training program and can be delivered to site in just 1 - 5 days.



## BENEFITS INCLUDE:



Fully backed by CSR Limited, one of Australia's oldest and most respected public companies, when you build with AFS Rediwall®, you know you are building with a name you can trust.

**To find out more on how AFS Rediwall® can benefit your next project call 1300 727 237 today.**



Speed of construction



Ease of materials handling



Load bearing structure



Ezy-Fit™ corner panels slide open for access



Fire performance



Lightweight durable system



Above and below ground versatility



Speedy Snap-In™ panels lock together instantly



Water resistant



Significant waste reduction





## **afs rediwall** FAQ

### **Q: Can I use AFS Rediwall® for all structural external walls in a residential home?**

Yes, AFS Rediwall® can be used for both below ground and above ground applications including:

- Basement walls
- Blade walls
- Columns
- Party walls
- Retention tanks
- Retaining walls
- Landscaping walls
- Planter boxes
- Foundation walls
- Service & stormwater pits

Please consult with your structural engineer on your design.

### **Can I put windows and doors into AFS Rediwall®?**

Yes, while constructing the wall you can use an AFS Rediwall end cap accessory to accommodate windows and doors. Consult with your designer and refer to the AFS Rediwall design and installation guide.

### **Who can install AFS Rediwall®?**

With free training and on-site support provided by AFS Rediwall®, the system is able to be installed by builders and formworkers. Many builders and specialised installers are already familiar with the AFS Rediwall® system.

### **What finishes can be applied to AFS Rediwall®?**

AFS Rediwall® can be finished with a skim coat, Gyprock® internal lining or by applying an acrylic render to ensure you are able to achieve the exact look you are after. The AFS Rediwall® system can be used with insulation products and is able to be clad to provide an appealing exterior finish.

### **How long does it take to construct?**

It is faster than brick, block and other alternative methods. Typically a team of two workers can construct 80-100m<sup>2</sup> per day.

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE

# 20-Minute Neighborhood

Words by Gensler

The concept of the 20-minute neighborhoods has every commercial, residential, and institutional need within a 20-minute walk or bike ride of each other.



## ACCORDING TO C40 CITIES, HERE ARE THE CORE ELEMENTS OF SUCH NEIGHBORHOODS:

1. Easy access to goods and services, particularly groceries, fresh food, and health care.
2. A variety of housing types, of different sizes and levels of affordability, to accommodate many types of households and enable more people to live closer to where they work.
3. Clean air, free of harmful air pollutants, and public green spaces.
4. Smaller-scale offices, retail and hospitality, and co-working spaces that allow people to work closer to home.

## Equity and the 20-Minute Neighborhood

“We’re seeing a ripple effect in our neighborhood storefronts — and well before this pandemic, many of those storefronts, especially in our neighborhoods, were already vacant. There’s an opportunity to start to think about how these spaces can be repurposed, and how they can fill some gaps in healthcare — how we can populate these spaces to address some of these overdue needs in the community.”

- Andre Brumfield, Gensler Cities & Urban Design Leader

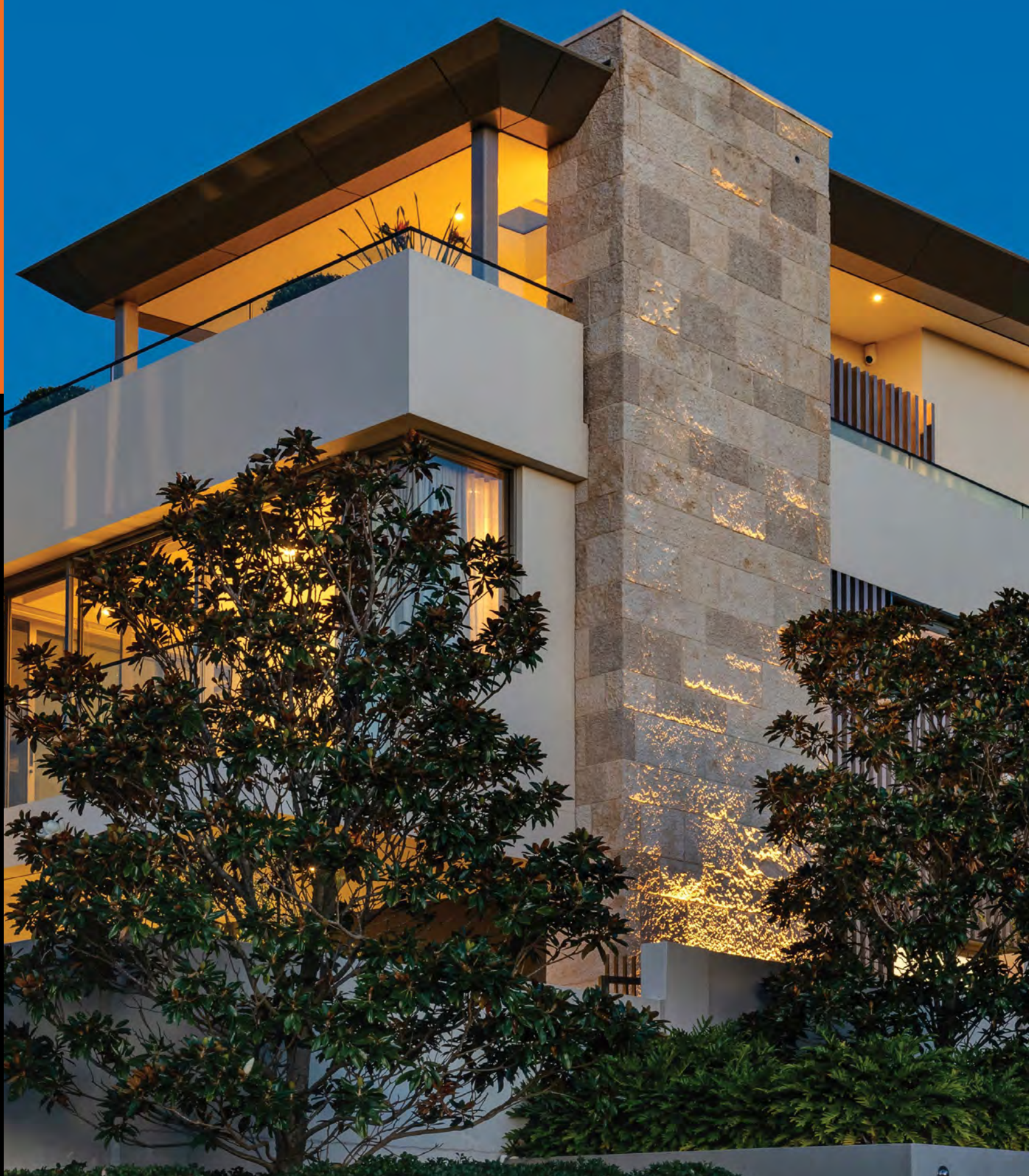
## Equity Should Frame the 20-Minute Neighborhood Conversation

To make a 20-minute neighborhood work, it must first be infused with the necessary services to support residents’ quality of life, including healthcare, affordable housing, education, healthy food, retail, and greenspace. Access for all residents must be an absolute priority. This becomes especially important as shortages in revenues are affecting investment in updates to ailing transportation infrastructure. Over time, this will increase reticence to use mass transit in major cities, which amplifies the importance of creating cities where all residents can find what they need within walking distance

## Environmental Factors Matter More Than We Realize

We must seriously consider the fact that the pandemic is a product of the alterations we’ve made to the natural landscape and the lack of harmonization of our cities with nature. We have to start adapting cities to the landscape, to nature, and not the other way around.







# Cronulla Beauty Takes the Prize

When retirees Bob and Nancy decided to build their dream home by the beach, they put their trust in John Hatch from JMH Living Design. Their vision was to have a home with a luxurious resort feel, a place where they could enjoy expansive beach and city views, entertain friends and enjoy the serenity for many years to come.

Entrusted with this dream project, John and his team collaborated with the builder, Paul Martin Building and structural engineer, Steve Whelan and Associates, to deliver an exceptional home that left the clients highly impressed with the result. The home also received a Commendation in the Building Designers Association of Australia (BDAA) 2021 awards, as well as taking out the Hebel Industry Partner Award.

## Hebel PowerPanel the hero of the home

With a resort aesthetic in mind, Hebel was chosen for the perimeter of the middle level and the upper level, giving the Cronulla home a sleek, modern look. Hebel PowerPanels are an external wall system, reinforced with steel and fixed vertically, able to be rendered in a variety of finishes.

John explains that the main reason they chose Hebel was its durability. He says it brought “more of a masonry feel to the touch of the walling system and a solidness to it that we wanted to have for the home. And because we had suspended concrete floor slabs with basically a steel structure supporting it, then the infill timber and Hebel was a good combination for the project.”

The thermal and acoustic properties of Hebel also proved a unique advantage for this Cronulla property. While John admits that many clients “don’t put a lot of emphasis on thermal properties,” he feels it is up to designers and representatives of products like Hebel to “demonstrate what the pros and cons can be.” In this instance, in conjunction with the orientation of the home and the double glazing to the windows and doors, the Hebel panels provide comfort from the heat of Summer and keep out the cold in Winter. And even though the owners ended up deciding to install air conditioning on the lower entertainment level of the home, John feels the home would probably still have been comfortable without it.

In terms of acoustics, John explains that even though this property is one street off the beach, it’s met with a lot of crowd and car noise during the summer months as people look for prime parking spots close to the water. He describes his vision for how the home would be used in those months taking advantage of Hebel PowerPanels’ acoustic properties to achieve it. He says, “The intent of what we were doing was such that the thought process was that they [the owners] could go down to the beach and enjoy it early in the morning, go for walks and enjoy it before all the crowds arrive.



The thermal and acoustic properties of Hebel also proved a unique advantage for this Cronulla property





And then after that, they could retire into their home, still get the advantage of the views and the aspect, but basically be shielded from the throngs out in front taking advantage of the beach themselves. It's got that luxurious isolation they wanted but without having a direct connection to the business that is happening outside the house and surrounding their home."

In addition, Hebel panels are also lightweight making them easier to install, especially on the upper levels of this home. Combined with durability, strength and other properties like fire-rating compliancy, it really is a great product able to be utilised to great effect.





### A winning combination

John and the JMH Living Design team, along with builder Paul Martin Building, used a number of different products in the design and construction of the home. But it was the Hebel PowerPanels that made this Cronulla haven a winner.

Comparing it to another project he completed nearby with the same builder in 2007, where they used concrete blocks for the basement and brick cavity work for the upper floors, he says, “With the Hebel PowerPanel and the AFS Rediwall® it probably saved us 6 or 7 months in terms of construction time.” A phenomenal advantage to the clients in terms of money and time saved, with a stunning result.

### Advice to young designers

Having been a designer for 40 years, and the Senior Vice President of the BDAA since 2015, as well as holding various other leadership positions in the design industry, John Hatch has a word of advice for young designers. While ultimately the materials chosen for a project will be determined by the client’s preferred style and budget, he encourages designers to think outside what they’re familiar with and look at different materials.

He knows that “a lot of trades become reticent to using new materials because they become so used to using materials that they’ve had for the past 10, 20, 30 or 40 years.” But he continues, “It’s a perpetual learning scenario these days and if you don’t keep up with it, you get left behind.”

**While ultimately the materials chosen for a project will be determined by the client’s preferred style and budget, John encourages designers to think outside what they’re familiar with and look at different materials**

He thinks the BDAA and associated individual chapter conversations are a great way for designers to learn about new products. By chatting to designers that have used the products, new possibilities open up.

It may also be the case that more than one material can be used to great advantage like it was in this Cronulla home. “A variety of materials can end up being a better way to look at a particular project.” As an example he says, “You could use feature brick work, weatherboard and Hebel in a certain combination and you could achieve a much more interesting outcome than using one material alone.”

At the end of the day, John says “the whole rationale of using a product is to meet your client’s requirements.” With this Cronulla home, the clients were ecstatic with the finished result, and the Hebel Industry Partner Award was an acknowledgement that the use of Hebel was one of excellence. It achieved an outstanding outcome for the client.

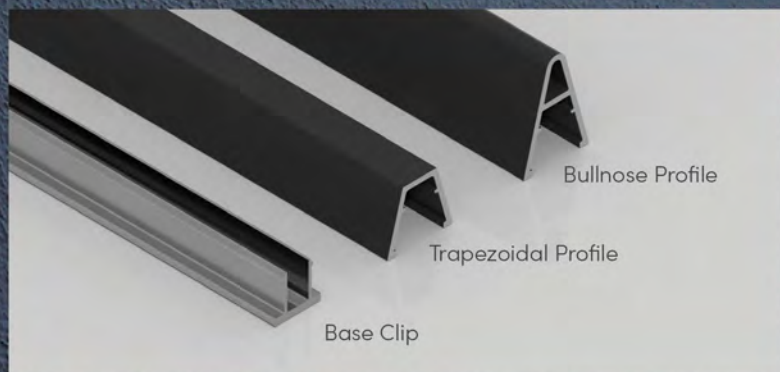


## PowerProfile<sup>®</sup>

Hebel's PowerProfile is a simple way to accessorise your Hebel facade to replicate the look of traditional standing.

A universal backing clip is fixed to the Hebel facade and a powder coated aluminium profile snaps on to the clip offering a myriad of design options.

Parapet and perimeter trims are also available to complement your design requirements.



# Current Residential Landscape Trends

Words by Lisette and Colin Marchant  
Costata Landscape Design

The construction industry seems to have exploded over the past 18 months with so much building work under construction, or under approval or under design. As a landscape and building design team, we are feeling the load along with our colleagues and the trades in the industry. And along with the increase in projects, comes a change in the type of work we are taking on.

What we have noticed in landscaping over the past 2 years particularly, is that residential clients are investing more into their own properties, they are looking to create the resort they can't travel to, in their own backyard. Of course, it adds value to their property in the long run as well.


To highlight 3 currently popular elements within landscaping, most of our projects now include a swimming pool or spa, a pool cabana with outdoor cooking area and

a firepit. These all provide destinations and sites within the garden for family to entertain with friends and relax together. The strictures of COVID seems to have affected our clients with a need to celebrate close friends and family more than ever.

The garden design and plant material are also of high priority to provide a softening of the structural elements with places to wander and gardens to tend.







The location of the pool pump, filter and any heating equipment must also be planned from the start.

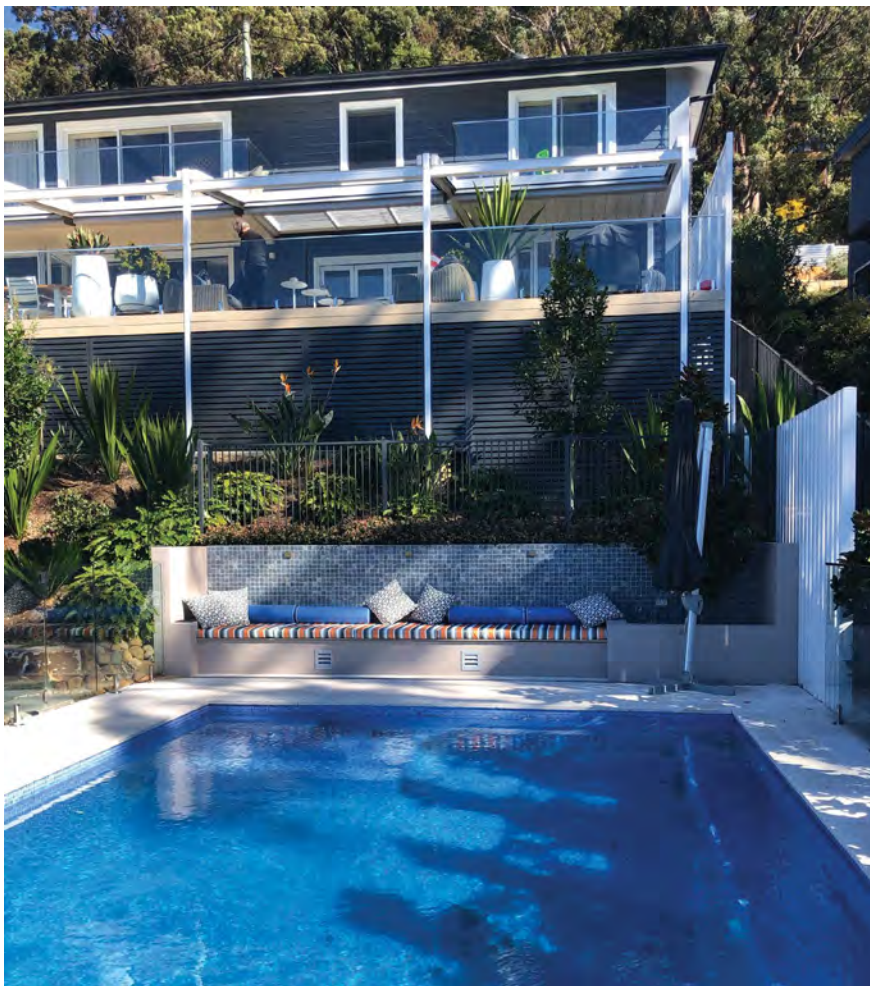


## Swimming Pools and Spas

We are seeing a wide range of required sizes and locations for our clients' pools. Siting is important for structural, services and access reasons. We always design the pool fence as a vital part of the overall garden design and ensure it complies with AS 1926.1(2012).

Pool covers provide savings in heating and cleaning and are worth designing into the initial design also. Concrete in-ground or Fibreglass pools can be integrated into the landscape with connecting timber decks, natural stone finishes, honed concrete or recycled bricks. The location of the pool pump, filter and any heating equipment must also be planned from the start.





### Pool Cabanas

These vary and depend upon the requirements of each client. Some are simple shade structures whilst some require full kitchens, bar, lounge, dining, music and TV integrations. Outdoor showers and toilets nearby are also very popular. No matter what form it takes, the cabana provides a destination for people to gather.







We are seeing these projects, and these trends extending well into 2022 and beyond



## Firepits

A firepit in each garden seems to now be pre-requisite within our landscape designs. The romance of sitting under the stars, gathered around the warmth and flicker of the fire is an appealing concept for most of our clients. Again, they can take many forms. A simple positioning of sandstone boulders with crushed granite base and a corten-steel bowl. Or a more permanent semi-circular masonry and timber structure with bluestone underfoot and large steel fire pit with cooking grills and lid.



*All projects designed and managed by  
Costata Landscape Design*

BACK TO NATURE:

# Making Sense Of Biophilic Design

You may not be familiar with the term but, chances are, you're already well versed in the benefits of biophilic design. One of the strongest trends in building design in recent years, biophilic design refers to the integration of the natural world into the built environment to promote wellbeing and relieve the stresses of modern living. The innate human desire to stay grounded in nature is the reason why we feel better after a walk on the beach, hearing birdsong in the garden or just watching the shadowplay of a sheltering tree on a wall. From a design perspective, it's also the driving force behind the explosion in the indoor plant business, rooftop gardens and greenwalls and the push for the use of natural materials, like marble and raw timber, in interior design.

Although in some ways it is nothing new - humans have been seeking to stay close to the natural world in some way since ancient times - trend forecasters suggest that this recent rise of biophilic design is a reaction to our ever-increasing reliance on technology. That is, the more time we spend looking at our screens, the more we crave a connection to the environment.

While for some, getting their 'fix' of nature is as easy as stepping out their front door, for many people living in increasingly dense urban areas, it's not so straightforward. But creating opportunities to experience the natural world through all the senses, perhaps without even leaving your home or office building can provide the same benefits. It could be expressed by introducing a coffee table finished in raw timber or specifying a heavily veined marble top bathroom vanity, but even materials that mimic the shapes and patterns of nature can provide a similar experience - without the maintenance issues.

That's where the LYSAGHT® range of products steps in. Everything from curved roof lines to walls that embrace the terrain can be shaped from CUSTOM ORB®, LONGLINE 305® and other LYSAGHT® claddings. These flexible capabilities, when complemented with structural steel beams, allow designers to blur the boundaries between indoor and outdoor spaces, enabling steel to be the versatile, natural partner for this design movement.

Will Pereyra, BDM Commercial & Industrial for Lysaght, says it's an easy choice for designers looking for durability, flexibility and beauty for both internal and external spaces. For those looking to take the idea further, he says, LYSAGHT® products can be made from REDCOR® weathering steel which develops a rust-look finish over time to offer a more natural looking alternative to traditional steel walling. Suitable for indoor or outdoor use, it can be shaped into everything from retaining walls to internal cladding.



Designer: James Cooper

“REDCOR® weathering steel will get to a point where it will not weather any more, but it has this beautiful patina,” Will says. “It creates these different textures, colours and patterns. It works really well on facades, but you can also use it internally. We’ve used it in foyers to create the effect of a vertical cliff face.”

Even the extensive range of COLORBOND® steel colours, which range from the coastal-inspired tones of Surfmist®, the soft browns hues of Wallaby® or the earthy tones of Jasper® specified in LYSAGHT® roofing or walling lean into the colours of the natural environment.

While colour plays a key role, the shapes of nature can also build on the connection. Cladding products such as LYSAGHT LONGLINE 305® have a unique tapering capability, fanning out like the ridges of a scallop shell or expressed in high ribs and broad flat plains ideal for creating striking shadowlines and reflecting light.

The versatility of products such as the CUSTOM ORB® roofing materials range extends beyond the obvious expressions of mirroring the gentle waves of the ocean in coastal areas. Biophilic design also addresses the need for natural light and the desire for sight lines beyond the four walls of a building. CUSTOM ORB® is perfect for creating rooflines able to capture northern light or to draw the eye towards tree canopies, even on the tightest urban sites.

## Biophilic design

refers to the integration of the natural world into the built environment to promote wellbeing and relieve the stresses of modern living.

Lysaght is a division of BlueScope, and has been a leading Australian supplier of steel building products for residential and commercial projects for over 150 years. The extensive LYSAGHT® range includes roofing, walling, guttering, fencing, purlins and formwork products. All LYSAGHT® steel products are manufactured using 100 per cent Australian-made steel such as COLORBOND® steel and ZINCALUME® steel, which is shaped to develop industry-standard products such as CUSTOM ORB® corrugated roofing, KLIP-LOK® concealed-fix roofing and the ZENITH™ range of architectural cladding. This year Lysaght proudly celebrates 100 years as an Australian manufacturer – its products are available and expertly supported through a nationwide network of manufacturing, sales and distribution facilities.

Where designers are looking to introduce spaces where the threshold between indoor and outdoor spaces is hard to define, structural steel beams are the obvious solution to create uninterrupted views of green space in residential as well as commercial applications. Award-winning building designer James Cooper from Sanctum Design says the ability to completely open up a residence to the garden can transform a project and irrevocably alter the experience of a site for the residents.

“It’s all about that connection to complex visual perspectives which you get from nature,” he says. “It’s depth and shadow and that interplay of the randomised shapes you get. It makes a space feel more natural because you have layers of shadow and texture as opposed to an interior which is fairly one-dimensional most of the time.”

Building designer Luke Van Jour of Distinct Innovations says good biophilic design always starts with a thorough understanding of the site. “Before we start designing, we always go to the site,” he says. “Whether it’s in the middle of the city or an acreage, there’s always going to be something natural, like a skyline or a mountain view or just a tree in the backyard where we try to draw that into the floorplan somehow. Drawing those elements into the floorplan focuses wellbeing and reduces stress.”

**LYSAGHT**

**100**  
AUSTRALIAN MADE SINCE 1921



# WHEREVER YOU BUILD. LYSAGHT IS HERE.

For over 100 years Lysaght has been helping create great Australian homes. Shaped from COLORBOND® steel the LYSAGHT® range of roofing, walling and rainwater products can help you create the home of your dreams wherever you build.

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**LYSAGHT. THE PROFESSIONALS' CHOICE.**

**Colorbond®**



# Senior Living

Words by Gensler

Today's aging population is increasingly tech-savvy, innovative, independent, and diverse. The design of living spaces ranging from retirement communities to multigenerational urban high rises are evolving to offer more choice and physical-digital integration. Savvy operators and developers are building spaces that accommodate the full spectrum of clients, catering to their specific needs.

## 4 STRATEGIES FOR RETHINKING LONGEVITY IN AN AGE-INCLUSIVE WORLD

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on people of all ages, but older adults are among the most impacted. Design plays an important role in keeping older adults safe, connected, and engaged in their community. Here are four strategies for reimagining longevity in an age-inclusive world:

### 1 Reconnect with Nature

Evidence-based design research suggests that exposure to natural light and air, as well as views of nature, have positive health outcomes, from reducing stress to lowering blood pressure. Facilities can improve access to clean air by increasing the quantity and quality of filtered air while also reinforcing the importance of operable windows. They can also extend gardens into building designs, add balconies into unit designs, and recognize the full sensory benefits of nature.

### 2 Redefine Public and Private Spaces


We have an opportunity to more clearly define and expand private and semi-private spaces; distributing amenities closer to residential units, revisiting building delivery strategies, and reimagining corridors as spaces. We can also design thresholds for senior living facilities that can extend private spaces in a way that prioritizes residents' health and safety, such as drop zones for food delivery, or an area where staff or other residents can visit from behind glass to help avoid contagion risk.

### 3 Embrace Technology

"Smart" technology, such as sensors, wearables, voice activation computers, mobile apps, and more can educate and assist people in living independently — at the high levels of aesthetic and performance quality they've come to expect. Technology can help people become active participants in their own health and physical environment. Telehealth, for example, is becoming increasingly important to reach older adults in their homes and communities.

### 4 Design Age friendly Cities And Experiences

Age-friendly infrastructures can support people of all ages to live and age in their homes and communities. By diversifying housing stock, creating more accessible connections to transit, using transportation to build social connections, creating safe pedestrian experiences, and other interventions, cities can make communities more livable for all ages and establish fully integrated multigenerational communities over time.



Evidence-based design research suggests that exposure to natural light and air, as well as views of nature, have positive health outcomes

Designer: Lachlan Walsh Design, Photographer: Dylan Proctor

# The Importance of Professional Indemnity Insurance

FOR DESIGN PROFESSIONALS

Every design project is unique and has its complexities. That's why it's so important you have Professional Indemnity Insurance to ensure you are covered for the vast range of exposures that are present within your industry.

## What is Professional Indemnity Insurance and why is it important?

Mistakes happen, it's a fact of life.

It doesn't matter how experienced you are or how good your intentions were, mistakes still happen. That's why Professional Indemnity Insurance is vital for professionals who give advice or provide a service to their clients.

With the correct cover in place, Professional Indemnity Insurance will give you protection from legal costs and claims from third parties should you make a mistake – without the financial strain of having to defend yourself.

These claims could be for anything from damages that are perceived to have arisen from the professional's acts or omissions, to claims that professional duty has been breached.

For example, should a Building Designer do, or forget to do, something that is seen to cause injury or financial loss to their client and the client decides to take legal action against them, Professional Indemnity insurance would provide the Building Designer with the necessary cover to protect them and their business – ultimately saving time, money, reputation and stress.

Without the correct insurance, defending yourself can be financially crippling and your entire livelihood could be at stake. Even if your actions are carried out with the best intentions, you need to have backup in case a client feels you have been negligent or offered incorrect advice.

It's not uncommon for legal fees to run into hundreds of thousands of dollars. With a tailored Professional Indemnity Insurance policy in place, you have the peace of mind that in the event of a claim, your costs could be covered and legal teams will work diligently to defend you in any action taken against you or your company.

# 3 Common Mistakes Designers Make with Insurance

& HOW YOU CAN AVOID THEM

Image: Adam Hobill – The Treehouse



**If you want to avoid making a mistake with your Professional Indemnity Insurance, you should...**

**1 Notify your insurer of an issue immediately**  
The insurer has solicitors that handle these issues so you don't need to get your own lawyer first.

**2 Always read the exclusions**  
Familiarise yourself with your policy, so you understand what you are and aren't covered for.

**3 Speak to a reputable insurance broker**  
Don't buy insurance online without speaking with a reputable insurance broker. Anything you buy online is at your own risk and you have no recourse against the provider if the cover is not suitable for your needs!



Scan me to get tailored advice & a quote from an award-winning broker!

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