

# Simple Materials, Beautifully Finished

There's an honesty in inexpensive materials. When handled properly, they graciously allow an architect's vision to emerge.

At Bellevarde, we enjoy working with humble, practical materials as detailing and finishing them perfectly is often quite challenging. Here are three Bellevarde houses that show you don't need an expensive kit to achieve a beautiful result.



# Crackenback Stables

Crackenback, NSW



It's hard to be simple but it's something we strive for in architecture, design, life.

To his credit, John gave us a simple if slightly contrary design brief for his stables—‘Cheap materials, able to be recognised by architects’. I think much of their distinctive appeal comes from these inherent contrasts of traditional v. modern, shiny v. rusty, humble materials v. flawless finishing. From a distance, it looks like a tin shed but up close, it's like jewellery.

Obsessive attention to detail gives Belvarde the uncanny knack of being able to spin straw into gold or, in this case, corrugated iron and rusty steel into a slew of international awards.

The design is classic Australian transformed into modern. Its simple organic form nestles into the landscape as shelter from wind, snow and fire. Most importantly, it's immaculately crafted everywhere you look and you wouldn't be able to build it this well with anyone but Belvarde.

A new sophistication for the Australian farmhouse vernacular and stunning for its simplicity.

ROB BROWN  
CASEY BROWN ARCHITECTURE  
{Architect}



# Henry Rourke House

Ando, NSW



With its skillion roofs and galvanised steel clad walls, the building is an abstraction of the utilitarian farm structures that dot the Monaro landscape. The rigorously limited palette of materials and restrained detailing focus attention on the strong abstract forms of the built elements.

The dynamic forms of the two major spaces are tied together internally by a rhythm of parallel blocks of equal length running north—south. These encourage views through the building, assist the penetration of natural light and cross ventilation, and ensure that the external building form can be seen internally. The clarity of the architectural concept is strengthened by an architectural approach focussed on the elimination of visual noise.

Decoration is omitted, everything is pared down, functional and simple. Finally, only the abstract forms and landscape are to be remembered.

We value Bellearde’s collaborative approach. John and his team seek to resolve problems without compromising the design intent and take the time to do things properly, resulting in a great project outcome.

We look forward to working closely with Bellearde again on another exciting project.

PENNY COLLINS AND HUW TURNER  
COLLINS + TURNER ARCHITECTS  
(Architects)



# Magney House

*Bingie Point, NSW*

As with much of Glenn Murcutt's work, Magney House strikes a chord in Australia's pastoral tradition while offering new ideas inspired by landscape and climate.

Good architecture concerns itself with place and, while it could be argued Murcutt's earlier wool sheds, with their corrugated 'planes of iron', mythologised our rural and even our aviation history (Glenn's father ran a flight school), Magney House marked a change.

The isolated pavilion makes ingenious use of a reverse brick veneer construction technique to moderate large seasonal temperature variations.

This calls for the building to be inside-out, with a single brick skin on the interior and increasingly lighter materials, like corrugated iron, toward the exterior. These were revolutionary ideas in 1984 and they not only captured the world's attention, they cemented Murcutt's place as pioneer of an Australian architectural tradition.

All Glenn's projects are designed right down to the keyhole and I know from personal experience that he demands they be finished impeccably too. Magney House is no exception and presents as absolutely craftsman-built.

DR PETER ARMSTRONG  
*THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY*  
(Associate Professor of Architecture)





