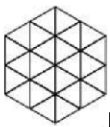


**Bethanga House** | tUG workshop



Bethanga House is a highly sophisticated and sustainable response to its site and context. The Jury was impressed with the use of steel faced insulated wall and roof panels as both a cost effective and thermally efficient mode of construction. The sandwich panels minimise the need for an extensive primary structure while providing prefinished interior surfaces. This project successfully explores new possibilities for a product more typically used for temporary or low cost projects.



**JURY CHAIR REPORT | COLORBOND® AWARD FOR STEEL ARCHITECTURE**

The **COLORBOND®** Award is a unique category. It is not an award for the best use of **COLORBOND®** Steel specifically, but an award for the innovative use of any steel in architecture. There are also conditions associated with the selection of the award, namely the project must be a building and cannot be ephemeral in nature.

This year was a challenge as the split between large and small was again evident. The larger projects showed a mix of substantial tonnage lost in the carcass of the building, or often a different type of tonnage expressed externally. There are no Parthenons to steel in this day and age, and if pragmatism is the game, illusion is a valid device.

Finding larger projects that celebrate the use of steel proved difficult. Steel is a challenging medium and currently the best of these buildings are the larger 'big team events' as they require high levels of coordination at all levels, and are supported by highly sophisticated computer software and analysis. This year it was decided to award a project of this stature the **COLORBOND®** Award.

The Jury decided to exercise the option of awarding a Commendation and to cast it toward what they saw as some hardworking smaller practitioners grappling with the use of steel as an integral part of the design. Architecture is increasingly pragmatic and requires hybrid solutions for reasons of sustainability, economy and joy. This is worth consideration and celebration.

**Nigel Fitton**  
Spowers Architects

**Category Sponsor**



BlueScope Steel believes excellence in architecture improves the quality of the built environment. In our 30th year as the Principal Corporate Partner, we are proud to sponsor the Victorian Architecture Awards and the **COLORBOND®** Award for Steel Architecture.