



datum

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Member Profile

Joe O'Dwyer

"Furniture to factories" is my usual response to the question: "What sort of architecture do you do?" Anything, so long as the brief, budget and client are realistic. I sell ideas – solutions to problems – in order to attain an exciting outcome for the client and myself.

Knowing how hard it is to bring a design idea to fruition that could have been better, I ensure that the essential concept behind each design solution is one I will be happy to work with throughout the design and construction process.

The following issues are usually considered prior to the design process:

- + existing dominant forms (natural and built);
- + land and air traffic noise and interaction;
- + consideration of sun and moon paths;
- + water, light and aspect;
- + movement to and from the site;
- + history (folk or otherwise) of the site;
- + opportunities rather than constraints;
- + architectural precedents.



Fitzroy Nth Residence

A house extension for two computer scientists.

The addition is informed by the existing garden and its significant trees. The spaces are designed to frame views to outdoor living areas and capture north light. The meals area is enveloped by a circular cedar-lined wall, mirroring the house's existing bay window.

The curved living-room wall contains the extensive AV system that services the entire house. It also divides the living space from the amenities and its shape creates a home-theatre environment in the open-plan living area.

The concave side of this solid-brick wall provides an embracing backdrop to the north-facing living room. The convex side forms the main wall of the bathroom and powder room showers. This side of the wall is covered with green and blue mosaic tiles, the arrangement of which creates an abstracted motif of falling water.

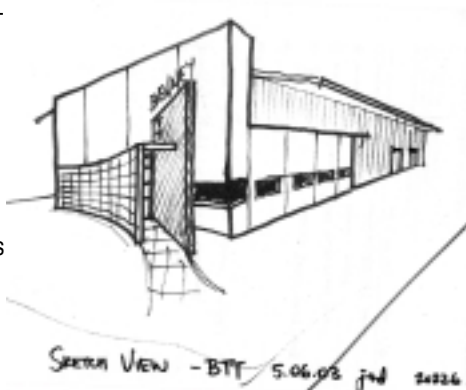


Benney - "un" - decorated shed

Benney produce precise high-tech instruments – a complex process which converts raw metals into highly refined measuring devices, and which requires a range of industrial equipment contained in suitably conditioned spaces.

I thought it was a good idea for the clients to buy and recycle an ex-railway portal structure worth \$300,000 for \$50,000. In order to convince the clients to purchase the building, I offered to buy it myself!

The design is a reaction to Venturi's "decorated shed". A concrete tilt-panel wall provides a 'book-end' to the existing shed structure, which is peeled back and opens outwards to provide entry to the building. The portals were infilled with "UltraPanel" in 8m lengths, thus providing an insulated, finished surface to both sides.



Joe O'Dwyer

What I'm ...

What are you reading?

"Blue Ribbons, Bitter Bread" - The Story of Joyce Nankivell Loch - Australia's Most Decorated Woman; by Susanna De Vries

What are you listening to?

Greendale, Neil Young and Crazy Horse

What are you angry about?

WAR

What are you exultant about?

Children

Which architect do you find most inspirational?

Rem Koolhaas

What is your favourite film?

Apocalypse Now

What is your favourite building material?

Paint

What is your greatest extravagance?

Holidays

What would you never give up?

Sight and sound

What would you never do again?

Make green tomato chutney

If there was one building that Architeam could sponsor you to visit, which building would it be?

Nationale-Nederlanden Office Building, Prague - Frank O Gehry & Associates with Vlado Milunic