

Colorbond®

THE STEEL ARCHITECTURAL PANEL

PROJECT SHOWCASE



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Architectural panels made from COLORBOND® steel are giving designers more flexibility, and delivering clients value and performance.

These case studies highlight a broad range of applications, with perspectives on why panels were used, and what benefits they delivered.

Detail includes manufacturer information with reference to specific products and finishes.

Send details of projects you believe should be included in future editions to:

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Special Acknowledgement:

We thank Peter Hyatt and Associates for their support in making available to us their extensive library of photography.

THE BOTANIC GARDENS

BICENTENNIAL CONSERVATORY, ADELAIDE

A simple yet elegant arch of steel and glass has helped put paid to Adelaide's reputation as the staid and conservative 'city of churches'.

And in so doing, the Botanic Gardens Bicentennial Conservatory for Tropical Plants – completed in 1989 as a major Bicentennial project – has provided one of the earliest examples of EPS cored steel sandwich panels making the successful leap from utilitarian refrigeration panel to beautiful architectural form.

Architect Guy Maron, of Raffin Maron, says it was hard to go past steel panels on the material selection criteria.

"We wanted something that was quick to erect, straight, long, good looking and insulating – and it did all those things," he says.

"In terms of material and cladding costs, it was also well below anything else."

BONDOR® EQUILTIL® steel panels, used principally over the plant room areas, were specified in COLORBOND® steel in Shale Grey™. Raffin Maron designed a proprietary jointing system to provide a watertight seal.

Because of the potential for heat loss, the thermal performance of the steel panels was also important.

The simplicity of the 100 metre long elongated arch form belies a highly complicated geometry.

The webs of 28 prefabricated steel trusses, each angled differently, were pre-stressed to carry varying loads. Erection tolerances were within 1 to 2 millimetres. Both straight and tapered steel panel sections were incorporated into the design.

At the time of construction, the individual glass panels (each 100 square metres in size) represented the biggest single lift of sheet glass. Designed to last 100 years, the Bicentennial Conservatory displays plants from the tropical rainforests of South East Asia. Many of them are at risk or endangered in their natural habitats.

Elevated steel walkways through the foliage of tropical trees and palms and brick paved paths winding along the rainforest floor provide interesting and different viewing options for visitors.



Client: Board of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide. Architect: Raffin Maron Architects. Structural Engineer: Connell Group. Panel Manufacturer: BONDOR®. Product: Equiilit® Architectural Panels. Skin: COLORBOND® steel – Shale Grey™ Completed: 1989.

LIBERTY SERVICE STATION



*Client: Liberty Service Station. Panel Manufacturer: Retracom.
Product: Retracom Insulated Panels. Skin: COLORBOND® steel – Surfmist®. Completed: 1997.*

Architectural panels made from Surfmist® COLORBOND® steel have provided a speedy, efficient and cost-effective solution as fascia panelling on the Liberty

Service Station, at Browns Plain, in Brisbane. Retracom insulated panels have been used as fascia on the canopy over the bowser area.

According to Retracom’s Martin Porter, the main reasons the panels were chosen were cost, ease of installation, and the fact that they were a finished product when they went up.

“Other than signwriting, there’s nothing more you have to do to the panels once they’re fixed in a commercial application such as this,” he said.

“And that’s important when you’re working to a tight timeframe and budget.”

The site is on a busy road, so the ability of the panels to stand up to air-bourne pollutants and dust was also a factor.

Retracom panels have an EPS core bonded to an outer and inner skin of COLORBOND® steel, providing excellent strength and thermal performance with a minimal weight factor.

ZUPPS DISTRIBUTION AND TRAINING CENTRE



Client: Zupps Group of Companies. Architect: Cottee Parker Architects. Structural Engineer: Neil McKenzie and Associates. Panel Manufacturer: Hales and Lunn Insulated, Panel Systems Pty Ltd. Product: Polypanel Skin: COLORBOND® steel – Surfmist®. Completed: 1998.

The ability of steel architectural panels to be fixed straight over the top of existing cladding has resulted in a cost-effective upgrade to the facade of a Brisbane

automotive industry complex. The Coopers Plains Distribution and Training Centre of auto dealer Zupps features Polypanel architectural panels in

Surfmist® COLORBOND® steel, manufactured by Hales and Lunn Insulated Panel Systems.

The panels were chosen to lend a sharp finish to the building’s exterior, akin to – but more cost-effective than – the look achieved with aluminium panels on another of the company’s Brisbane properties.

Project architect, Nicky Thomas, of Cottee Parker Architects, says the choice of steel panels came down to aesthetics, cost and ease of construction – the fact that they could be fixed over and through the existing cladding.

“The panels are self-supporting, so they can be fixed with minimum framing, providing an innovative and cost-effective design solution for our client,” she said.

The steel panels were originally specified only for the office/admin refurbishment, but were so successfully deployed that they were also used on the adjoining warehouse.

A NEW GENERATION OF ROADSIDE ARCHITECTURE

THE M5 TOLLWAY

When you're craning a three by eight metre fully prefabricated building module off the back of a low loader, any weight saving achieved is... well, worth its weight in gold.

That's why the design and engineering team for the M5 toll plaza, in Sydney's west, elected to use steel architectural panels on crucial parts of the structure.

The distinctive tollway complex incorporates an administration building, control tower and toll booth canopy.

Steel architectural panels supplied by Minesco Pty Ltd have been used on both end walls of the long, low slung administration building, and around the curved outer wall of the control tower.

The M5 tollway project presented the DEM Design team with a particular challenge – to come up with a design for the toll plaza before a site for it had been confirmed.

Their solution was to design something that could largely be built off-site, then 'snapped' together on site once the location was identified.

The main administration building was designed as a series of prefabricated modules. Each module was constructed around a self-contained steel frame, and fully finished – right down to external cladding, internal linings, floorings, glazing and PC items – inside a factory.



Client: Leighton InterLink. Architect: DEM Design Pty Ltd. Structural Engineer: Maunsell PB Pty Ltd. Panel Manufacturer: Minesco Pty Ltd. Product: Styrospan Cladding System. Skin: COLORBOND® steel. Completed: 1992.

Once all the modules were completed, they were bolted together in the factory, then unbolted and trucked to site separately.

On site, the modules were craned onto a parallel beam footing system and bolted back together.

The control tower's steel frame was also prefabricated off site, and trucked and craned onto site in one piece.

The horizontally-fixed architectural panels which create such a striking effect on the outside of the tower were pre-curved in the factory to a very tight radius.

The panels used on both the tower and the administration building feature COLORBOND® steel, delivering a high quality, long-lasting finish.

DEM Design's partner in charge, Rudi Valla, says while thermal performance, sound insulation and finish were all considerations, the most important factor that sealed the decision to use steel architectural panels was weight.

The lightweight nature of the panels, together with the neoprene jointing system used, ensured they stood up to the tremendous loads imposed during the lifting, providing more flexural strength than other materials.

"It meant we didn't have to brace up the modules as much," Mr Valla said.

"At the end of the day, it was a pretty simple choice. It had to be a lightweight cladding, and the panels gave us the best performance structurally, aesthetically and in terms of budget constraints."

DIVISION OF MINERALS CSIRO



*Client: CSIRO – Division of Minerals.
Architect: Woods Bagot.
Structural Engineer: Clive Steel and Partners.
Panel Manufacturer: HH Robertson.
Product: Formawall® Skin: COLORBOND®
Metallic steel. Completed: 1997.*

The CSIRO Division of Minerals facility in Clayton, Victoria, represents the new face of science practice and administration in Australia.

Completed in 1997, it's a low maintenance, low energy facility that delivers functionality with flair.

And to achieve that balance, Melbourne architects Woods Bagot turned yet again to HHR Panels using COLORBOND® steel.

Project architect Mark Kelly had previously used HH Roberston's Formawall® sandwich panel system on Cathay Pacific's new data operations centre in Sydney.

With that experience in hand, he opted for the same product with the same finish – COLORBOND® Metallic steel.

He enthuses about the panel's aesthetic qualities, as well as its thermal performance.

"The surface lustre and hue changes under different light conditions, so the building has an ever-changing character," he said.

"At the same time, it delivers outstanding insulation qualities and durability."

More than 1,900 square metres of Formawall® were used on the project, which comprises two buildings – one housing research laboratories and offices, and the other essentially a process bay structure for conducting large scale experiments.

To that end, steel composite architectural panels also met the requirement for building systems and materials that delivered a hermetically controlled environment in which the scientists could work.

The Formawall® panels were fixed externally to steelwork rising above ground floor levels on each of the buildings.

An existing administrative block was also incorporated into the total development, connected to the new laboratory by an elevated, enclosed steel and glass walkway.

The architectural panel walling is complemented by the extensive use of roofing made from COLORBOND® steel, giving the entire facility a strong sense of permanence and strength.

Mark Kelly says he was impressed by the approach taken by his clients to the design challenge.

"They understood the building had to be much more than a mathematical calculation," he says.

"Their view was that 'the best research happens in the best buildings.'"



THE AWARD WINNING STATE OFFICE

WOOLWORTHS



*Client: Woolworths. Architect: MNIA Architects. Structural Engineer: Wallbridge and Gilbert.
Panel Manufacturer: Bondor Product: Equitilt® Architectural Walling.
Skin: COLORBOND® steel Completed: 1997.*

The ability of COLORBOND® steel architectural panels to give depth and flair to a corporate 'flagship' has been well proven on Woolworths' new state headquarters, in South Australia.

BONDOR EQUITILT® Architectural Walling panels made from COLORBOND® steel

have been used as exterior cladding on the two-storey state office building. Mark Newton, of Sydney-based MNIA Architects, said aesthetic considerations aside, the logic behind the choice was straightforward.

"They were cost-effective, low maintenance,

and their insulation qualities helped reduce energy costs," he said.

The state office building accommodates some 3,000 square metres of floor area. The emphasis on energy cost reduction and optimum environmental performance carries through in the choice of tinted glass windows and ozone-friendly air-con gases.

Woolworths' 20 hectare Gepps Cross site also incorporates a produce warehouse (approximately 12,000 square metres of floor space) and grocery warehouse (38,000 sq m).

Equitilt® panels have also been used on the grocery warehouse, and Bondor insulated panels on the produce warehouse.

HEIDELBERG

RICHMOND AUSTRALIA

The Australian headquarters of international print press giant, Heidelberg, is proof that three does go into one.

Situated in the Melbourne suburb of Richmond, the complex represents a successful marriage of the high profile – showroom and office/administration – with the traditionally 'less public' function of warehousing.

The seamless integration of the many functions into the one coherent statement has been achieved in part with the use of panels made from COLORBOND® steel. In particular, Austral Slipjoint Panels in

Surfmist® COLORBOND® steel have been used extensively on the warehouse section to carry through the look and style expressed on the more public facade on Church Street.

Metier 3 director, Franco Fiorentini, says steel panels, together with structural steel framing, were chosen not simply because of aesthetics, but because they delivered both on budget and client expectations of quality.

"It combined the look and thermal performance we wanted with the speed and economies we needed," he said.



*Client: Heidelberg Australia. Architect: Metier 3.
Structural Engineer: Bruce Young.
Supplier: Austral Insulation.
Product: Austral Slipjoint Panels.
Skin: COLORBOND® steel – Surfmist®.
Completed: 1996.*

NEW HEADQUARTERS

CATHAY PACIFIC

Clean, futuristic and functional are words that best describe a major regional data operations centre in Sydney's north west.

The centre has 14,500 square metres of plant, support staff area and sophisticated computer and communications facilities spread over three levels.

The design of the project has been largely dictated by the twin drivers of security and functionality.

And to that end, it has very few windows (principally located looking onto a secure courtyard).

Faced with such a large, windowless external facade, the challenge for the Woods Bagot design team of Robert Cahill and Mark Kelly was to embellish the building without compromising its flexibility and reliability.

The solution they chose was H H Robertson's Formawall® panel system, featuring sheets of COLORBOND® steel adhered to an inner core of fire retardant and thermally-efficient material.

"The external envelope of the building is an extremely simple one," says Robert Cahill.

"It's a very rational building – but when you have a rational building like this you have to have a very good quality envelope to achieve architectural design success."

The steel panel system has been used as the external facade for the upper two levels of the building, which contains the technical support staff areas and high security computer areas.

Masonry was never a serious contender because of the time and difficulty in working on such a large facade.

On the other hand, one of the influencing factors behind the choice of the steel panelised system was that it could be manufactured off-site, and easily put together on-site.

Cost was also a factor. All the elements of the building had to stand up to a very rigorous cost benefit analysis.

Long-term, low maintenance performance and thermal characteristics were also important. Because the equipment within the building generates a big heat load, it was important that the external envelope not act as a heat source. Again, steel panels met the criteria.

Another significant challenge successfully met by the steel panel solution was that of waterproofing.

The possibility of leaking – either through the roof or the walls – was a critical issue for the design team, and they went to a lot of effort to control and weatherproof the building. An example is the employment of steel downpipes on the outside of the building.

These steel downpipes are an expressed element, but they also serve an important function in maintaining the waterproofness of the building – the idea being to get the water out of the building as quickly as possible, and have it travelling down the outside.

From a distance the metallic silver finish of the COLORBOND® Metallic steel used to manufacture the panels creates a distinctive and striking image.

"We wanted a silver building, and the pearlescent finish gives us a depth of colour. It changes in different lights," Robert



Cahill says.

"In massing terms, the building works well – and much of that has to do with the detail and quality of the HHR panels. They're very clean and crisp, and you get good control of shadow lines. They're also very flat, dimensionally accurate and controlled."



*Client: Cathay Pacific. Architect: Woods Bagot. Structural Engineer: Connell Wagner. Panel Manufacturer: HH Robertson.
Product: Formawall® Skin: COLORBOND® Metallic steel. Completed: 1996.*

ARCHITECTURE HAS BEEN GIVEN A PIVOTAL ROLE

INTERNATIONAL FIBRE CENTRE



Client: Victorian Department of Education. Architect: BSA – Sinclair Knight Merz. Structural Engineer: BSA – Sinclair Knight Merz. Panel Manufacturer: Bondor. Product: Equitilt® Architectural Walling. Skin: COLORBOND® Metallic steel. Completed: 1999.

Insulated steel architectural panels have helped transform the International Fibre Centre (IFC) into a vision of the future, rather than a tribute to the past.

The IFC's Geelong campus is the modern 'face' of the Australian wool and fibre industries as they shape up to the challenges of the new millennium.

As such, the building's stakeholders most definitely didn't want it to look like a big Australian wool shed.

Located on Deakin University's Waurn Pools campus, in Victoria, the IFC is used

primarily for training, education and product development for the Australian wool and textile industries.

Structurally, it makes the most of steel's long spanning capabilities, 'constructability' and design freedom.

The dramatic outline of the building disguises a conventional steel portal frame structure. BONDOR EQUITILT® Architectural Walling panels were made from COLORBOND® Metallic steel.

COLORBOND® steel has been used extensively as external walling, helping

to express the building's 'cut and fold' lines.

Notwithstanding aesthetic issues, Hamish Lyon, of architects BSA – Sinclair Knight Merz, says the decision to use steel architectural panels was primarily founded on practical grounds.

"The budget and construction timeline for the project were very tight," he says.

"So speed of erection, together with the panels' ability to span such long dimensions with minimal steel sub-structure behind them, were a big plus."

Elsewhere, EQUITILT® panels have been used for both the internal wall partitioning and the ceiling of the production area.

Given the nature of the wool and textile products and processes, this area had to be a controlled environment, and the thermal insulation qualities of the Equitilt® panel (with its EPS core) helped achieve this aim.

With a total design/construct budget of \$11 million, building costs for the IFC came in at around \$1,000 a square metre.



THE MELBOURNE SPORTS AND AQUATIC CENTRE

The Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre and the National Tennis Centre have a lot in common.

Both are acknowledged as world-class sporting facilities, with each sharing a common architectural pedigree via the sure hand of Peddle Thorp, and both bear the unmistakable imprint of Minesco Pty Ltd steel architectural panels.

Having used panels to great practical and aesthetic effect on the Tennis Centre, the Peddle Thorp design team had no hesitation in specifying Minesco Styrospan panels for the external wall cladding on the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, at Albert Park.

Design director Peter Brook said the panels not only met cost criteria dictated by a tight budget, but they measured up in terms of durability, thermal performance and – most importantly – spanning capability.

“From a design perspective, we wanted a lightweight, almost ‘floating’ structure. And in terms of budget, we also had to look at minimising materials wherever we could,” he says.

“The panels helped us achieve both aims. Because of their spanning performance, we were able to minimise the supporting steel framing.”

Steel’s ability to deliver ‘more for less’ has, in fact, been demonstrated all over the building. Cladding made from COLORBOND® steel has been used extensively on roofing areas, with lightweight steel structural members throughout.



Client: Arts Sport and Recreation Victoria. Architect: Peddle Thorp. Structural Engineer: Connell Wagner. Panel Manufacturer: Minesco Pty Ltd. Product: Styrospan Cladding System. Skin: COLORBOND® steel. Completed: 1997.

Apart from giving the building a ‘lightness’ and clean, crisp lines, it allowed for the achievement of big, open spaces – a deliberate design approach that will in future enable the facility to accommodate new sports as existing ones wane in popularity.

A lot of glass has been used around the pool area to invite inside natural warmth and light. The marriage of this glass and

the surrounding architectural panels works well in more ways than one.

“The panels relate very well to the glass, and in particular to the line of the mullions and transoms. You get a very sharp, neat effect, with no heavy shadow lines,” says Peter Brook.

“At the same time, the insulation qualities of the steel panels help control the inside environment.”

SUNSHINE COAST

UNIVERSITY

RECREATIONAL BUILDING



Client: Sunshine Coast University. Architect: Clare Design. Structural Engineer: Taylor and Associates. Panel Manufacturer: Building Solutions. Product: Ritek Custom Panel. Skin: COLORBOND® steel – Paperbark®, ZINCALUME® steel. Completed: 1997.

The 'all-in-one' nature of steel architectural panels has helped transform the design vision for a university recreation centre into reality in just 12 weeks.

The Sunshine Coast University Recreation Building – designed by award-winning Queensland architects, Clare Design – utilises Ritek steel sandwich panels by Building Solutions to deliver a 'roof – insulation – ceiling' solution in one go.

The Clares chose corrugated ZINCALUME® steel for the underside (ceiling), and a mix of Paperbark® COLORBOND® steel and ZINCALUME® steel for the external face (roof).

The Ritek Custom Panel is formed by bonding Custom Orb® to both sides of a core of EPS. The decision to use the panels was driven by time constraints. The architects had only six weeks for

design, documentation and tendering, which left 12 weeks for construction and fitout.

The simple, modular nature of the steel architectural Ritek panels promised the most efficient and effective roofing and ceiling solution, not just in dealing with the 4.5 - 5 metre roof spans and 1.5 - 2 metre cantilevers, but in terms of speedy erection.

The building is essentially a long, low horizontal structure. Because it faces east-west, the design team of Lindsay and Kerry Clare designed the roof as 'almost a series of overlying leaves' rather than one single roof line.

This layering approach not only helped reduce glare on the adjacent playing fields, but acted to reflect natural light inside the building, as well as aiding natural ventilation.



Lindsay Clare says the interior ceiling made from corrugated ZINCALUME® steel provided by the underside of the steel Ritek panels was a deliberate design statement.

"It suits the nature of it being a shed-like building. It's utilitarian," he says.

Emphasising its connection with the outdoors, the University Recreation Building is essentially transparent – a result achieved through the extensive use of glass for the external walls, and a 'minimalist' approach to load bearing and bracing (via a series of centralised posts and trusses).

CARM CENTRE

Melbourne's CARM Centre is, in terms of function, a research archive.

But such a description does no justice to the elegant, light form achieved by Perth-based architects, Forbes Fitzhardinge Woodland (now known as Cox Howlett and Bailey Woodland).

Located on the Research and Development Park of La Trobe University's Bundoora Campus, the CARM Centre has two distinct sections – a single storied administration wing and a multi-storied archival section. The archival section houses a million books and papers requiring careful preservation in a strictly controlled environment.

Equitilt® insulated steel panels, supplied by Bondor, were a fundamental part of FFW's lightweight design solution, allowing for a reduction of the building's framing mass.

At the same time, the steel panels met one of the most important criteria for the internal cladding of the archival section of the building – thermal performance – as well as providing a cost-effective, all-in-one lining solution.

"If we'd used masonry, we would have finished up with another skin or another lining," says FFW's Steve Woodland.

"But apart from the cost issue, the environment inside the archival area has to be highly dust-free, so the relatively impervious skin of the sandwich panel was ideal."



Client: Co-operative Action by Victorian Academic Libraries. Architect: Forbes Fitzhardinge Woodland. Structural Engineer: Ove Arup and Partners. Panel Manufacturer: Bondor. Product: Equitilt® Architectural Panels. Skin: COLORBOND® steel. Completed: 1997.

FIGHT CONTROL



Client: Brisbane Airport Corporation Ltd. Architect: Bligh Voller. Structural Engineer: Connell Wagner. Panel Manufacturer: Bondor. Product: Equitilt® Satinline Architectural Panels. Skin: COLORBOND® steel – Surfmist®. Completed: 1995.

Architectural panels made from COLORBOND® steel have provided a lightweight and cost-effective cladding solution under the eaves of the sweeping steel roof that graces Brisbane's International Airport.

The six metre roof overhang enhances the 'floating plane' look that is a characteristic of the Bligh Voller design.

Bligh Voller's Chris Clarke says the use of Bondor Satinline Equitilt® panels, featuring sheets of Surfmist® COLORBOND® steel laminated to a rigid EPS core, reduced the need for subframing, which in turn reduced overall building costs (and in particular scaffolding costs).

"Working up in the air like that, more sub-framing would have required more scaffolding. As it was, we were able to get up there with a cherry picker," he says.

Completed in 1995, the Brisbane International Airport – with its emphasis on light, space and clean and open lines of vision – has been described as a 'genuinely transparent airport', where you can walk in the front door and see through to the planes on the tarmac.

White steel tree-form columns rising up to support the roof are one feature that helps create the sense of openness and space inside the terminal.

Another is a central atrium situated in the two-level departure area, into which passengers descend en route to customs control and duty free shopping.

Palm trees and other greenery, as well as water features, complete the mood.

Outside, COLORBOND® steel has been used extensively, both as roofing and external wall cladding.

Bligh Voller's first significant experience with architectural panels made from COLORBOND® steel was on the buildings it designed for Brisbane's 1988 Expo.

Again, the steel panel system proved a very cost-effective solution because it minimised the need for sub-framing, and at the same time delivered the required insulation rating.



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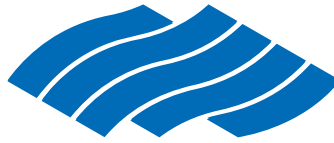
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