

FAB PREFAB

Prefabricated buildings are on the rise especially in remote environments, offering efficient architecture with lower costs and faster construction times.

Text: Penny Craswell



Photography: Aaron Pockock



ADDITION OUT BACK

Degree is a stand-alone addition to a Melbourne terrace house created as a modern, sustainable prefabricated structure. The new addition consists of a double-height kitchen, dining and living space with a laundry and bathroom, while a bedroom and ensuite fit snugly onto a mezzanine level. This panelised building was designed to passive house standards with a super-insulated, airtight envelope and has provided increased energy efficiency for the client's growing family. Ventilated air also protects against external dust, pollen and noise pollution. ARKit is an architecture-led practice that specialises in prefabricated buildings. The concept designs of Degree were completed by Kerstin Thompson Architects.

arkit.com.au/projects/degree



LONG LINES

In the Alpine wilderness where the Yea and Goulburn Rivers meet in Victoria, this prefab home creates an oasis from city life, complete with lakes, rivers, mountain streams and waterholes. With a robust exterior rated to BAL 29, the home produces its own power using a PV solar array and battery storage, captures rainwater and treats and disposes of wastewater with an on-site gravity-fed system. Positioned along the contours of the landscape, the house has uninterrupted views of the surrounding bush. The building is made up of three prefabricated modules in one long line, creating a generous 169-square-metre home with an additional 47-square-metre deck.

ecoliv.com.au



Photography: Seagrass Films @seagrassfilms

Photography: Anthony Basheer



BUSH LUXURY OFF-GRID

Located on a hillside on the Fleurieu Peninsula south of Adelaide, this self-contained property is available for rent as luxury accommodation surrounded by gum trees, waterfalls and hidden walking trails. The prefabricated structure is designed by Melbourne architecture practice Das Studio and is clad in black steel to protect it from bushfires with interiors lined in timber. Local materials include a bluestone step sourced from a local quarry, and kitchen stools designed and made in the JamFactory Adelaide. With two identical suites including bedroom, kitchen and bathroom, there is also a fire plinth, entry portal and storage room to keep mess to a minimum.

das-studio.com.au
esca.com.au



Photography: Luke Butterly



ART HAVEN

In the Blue Mountains west of Sydney, this prefabricated structure made using cross-laminated timber (CLT) was designed as an artist's studio, the first of a series of prefab structures that the owners hope to build on their 1300-square-metre property. The design, by Design King Company, includes 63 square metres of living space on a footprint of only 24.5 square metres over three levels. An operable skylight at the top of the building brings sunlight in while acting as a thermal chimney, while in winter, hydronic heating and sand beneath the fibre cement floor panels retains warmth. Clad in recycled timber, the building has large, double-glazed windows with views of the stunning Kanimbla Valley.

designking.com.au



FOREST BATHING

Cross-laminated-timber floors and fully lined ply walls and ceiling create a cosy interior at this family home designed by MAKE Architects. Situated in the Karangahake forest in the Kaimai Ranges south of Auckland, the home has unspoilt views of the surrounding mountains and valleys. The main living and sleeping spaces are on the ground floor, with a mezzanine level for guests and a large 'outdoor room' for communing with nature. The prefabricated floors, walls and roof are efficient and inexpensive, and were assembled on site in four days. Carefully selected materials and finishes, weathertight linings and smart efficient ventilation systems also make this a truly sustainable project.

makearchitects.co.nz



Photography: David Straight