

PERGOLA & VERANDAHS – BUILDING or DO IT YOURSELF

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Why you're here!

If you're looking to build a Verandah, a Deck or Pergola yourself then The Project Centre - Narre Warren – architectural design service is the perfect starting point and solution for you to ensure your project result is a successful as you have dreamed.

For over 18 years we have been assisting people to "Do it yourself". We have developed the process where you're needs, you're capabilities and your budget and all work together. Frankly we do care about the result as much as you.

We have the experience and expertise to assist with making your dreams a reality. Many people want to do a project themselves but simply don't know where to start.

With the Project Centre we make it easier for people to ensure their needs and requirements can be made simple and help you through the council and building permit process.

Building Services available include:-

- Free design consultation at the Project Centre to establish Design, Project requirements and Budget
- Onsite Design consultations - Minimum fee \$125
- Plans - Our drafting service can provide plans for any type of project large or small
- Permits - With our service we can ensure plans supplied take into account all the variations and needs of gaining a permit for your project. This service includes:-
 - Council Permissions including Town Planning and Dispensations applications
 - Building Modifications and Appeals
 - Arranging for Building Permits

So if you want to learn more why not consider our FREE design consultation at the Project Centre. Ring our office to make an appointment after all it's free and your under no obligation to proceed.



A Member of Building Designers Association Victoria

Do it Yourself - Pergola

Below is a brief explanation or over view of how a pergola / verandah is constructed.

As there is a range of differing uses dependent upon location, size, shape etc., this information is only for those starting the process. This is not meant as a total guide to build your project.

INITIAL PREPARATION

- Determine Location & Size - Consider - Weather / Lifestyle benefits / Aesthetic Needs
- Established a realistic and affordable Budget by which to cost your project.
- Take measurements and have an initial Plan drawn so costing can begin.
- Consider government building codes and therefore plans and Permit fee's in your budget.
- Look for products that will provide good durability (long lasting) and quality appearance to reduce your long-term maintenance costs plus add extra value to your projects outcome.



Note: If you are planning to Roof the structure check your local council requirements, as almost all roofed structures require building permits. Dependent upon siting some permit can be more costly as require town planning, and dispensation consents prior to the granting of a building permit.

DECIDING TYPE OF TIMBER OR STEEL FRAME MATERIAL

Timber

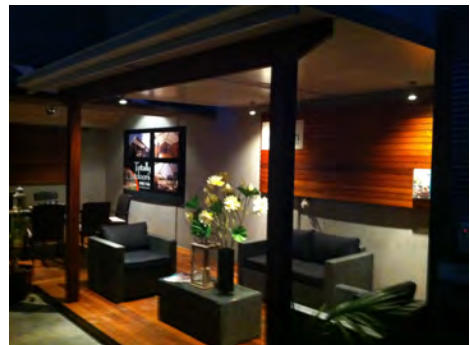
There has been a progression over the last 20 years from Canadian Oregon (Douglas Fir) and other hardwoods but due to cost, increased usage of plantation timbers and general availability the following timber have emerged.

Treated Pine for frame materials such as Rafters, Battens and Beams and Cypress Pine for Posts are widely used in Victoria for Pergolas, Verandah & Decking Projects.

In terms of strength timbers have been graded to F5 or F7 Dry Treated Pine normally has a Dressed finish an Treatment level for H3 (above ground) or H4 (in-ground) and Kiln Dried for stability.

Note: Check your local Timber merchant, as there are various grades available. We would always recommended timber produced by a recognized manufacturer. The Ends of all timber will normally carry the grading including treated level for that piece of timber.

If the application of the material were to be exposed long term to weather, for example uncovered structures, we would recommend Dry Treated Pine as your 1st Choice Treated Pine to used in structural application must be “Dry after Treatment” and graded for strength.



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Canadian or West Coast American Oregon is widely renowned for its overall strength and stability. However it should not be used in application where timber is subject to prolonged exposure to weather. It is however a perfect option for lining and internal visual application.



Hardwoods – Australia has quite a range of interesting hardwoods. Some can be used outdoors however their performance and weathering changes through prolonged exposure to rain, wind and sun should be confirmed prior to using.

Engineered & Composite Timbers – progressively veneer (LVL – Hyspan) and other laminated timber are finding their way into external timber framed projects. Careful review of manufacturers usage recommendations should be undertaken.

Imported Hardwoods – overall the usage of imported timbers has dropped in consumption. The preferred external hardwood Merbau is still imported and widely used for items such as step, posts and frame material. This “king of timbers” always delivers but can be costly. Veneers and laminated products such as DeckSTAR (<http://www.deckstar.com.au/>) are slowly find a home within the hardwood useage area. Continued advancement with recently announced Rubber wood decking will provide options for maintenance of these imported timer species.

Refer to following web site for more information:

<http://www.timber.net.au/index.php/outdoor-timber.html>

<http://www.timber.net.au/index.php/timber-wood-products-sawn-timber-sawmilling.html>

Maintenance: Timber should be paint primed upon installation and regularly maintained according to paint manufacturers instructions.

Note: Ensure all timber quotes received are on the same basis in Size, Condition and Grade of Materials. This will reduce confusion over pricing and disappointment over performance of materials used.

Steel

There has been a steady improvement n steel products providing a consumer friendly outcome which generally outdoor projects demand.



If there remains a stumbling point for steel products (besides being somewhat more expensive although more flexible in achieving increased spans for example) is the need to have engineering for every project unless you purchase a pre-engineered system.

There has been growth in this area over the last few years whereby Stratco Outback and Fielders Centenary have emerged as leaders in Verandah and Pergola projects.

DISPLAY CENTRE JAN 2012

From a pure maintenance perspective steel has timber beaten hands down.

- It is prefinished,
- cut to size,
- Extended warranties (generally no warranties are provided for timber products although some manufacturers will respond if pressed),
- Instruction manuals for easier installation,
- High durability low maintenance.

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Steel is more expensive than timber for actual materials but over life of project this cost factor would be reversed.

We recommend **The Centenary Steel Carports and Verandahs.**

As the leading Australia manufacturer of full steel Kits the Centenary Products provides a series of benefits not covered by other manufacturers including

- 20 year manufacturers warranty
- Fully Engineered Specifications supplied with every kit, - no guess work either it computes or it doesn't providing client's with the peace of mind that their project will perform for many years to come.
- Full Colorbond or Powder coated steel Product - not unsightly plastic infill's around beams and rafters.
- Cut to Size & Ready to assemble - made to measure Kit's allowing easier and confident approach for both professionals and DIY builders.
- Products manufactured by a long established Australian Company.
- Superior design capabilities
- Not painting required - durability for Australian Conditions

Note: We acknowledge of personal interest in company *Totally Outdoors* that is a distributor of *Fielders Centenary* products. We advise that our comment above were our reasons to select *Centenary* as our base frame for our business. After 4 years of our relationship our decision has been vindicated many times and so from a pure experience of usage position we feel we can recommend this product.



If you require more information on Centenary Products

Ring now (BH) 03 9796 7881 for free quote on your kit delivered Australia wide to your door

OR

View web site www.totallyoutdoors.com.au

SEE OUR DISPLAY CENTRE: 1/ 26 – 28 Abbott Road Hallam – check web site for opening hours.

STARTING TO BUILD

We will assume that a plan has been prepared for your project. This will form the basis of your building works.

SITE PREPARATION:

- Confirm measurement of Area. It is clear that almost no two people will get the same measurement. Confirming measurement will ensure other actions are taken with this knowledge in hand.

Hint: Remember take your time on set up as will pay dividends in the end

- Prepare Hurdles for fixing string lines off house or fence or using hurdles
- Square lines up using 3, 4, 5 method

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- Finally check diagonally for square.

Hint: Double check and confirm back to plan for any adjustment that may be required.

POSITIONING OF POSTS OR STIRRUPS

- Mark centers of holes and dig your holes – never a favorite chore.

Note If using standard Post Stirrups, holes should be around 350x 350 x 600 mm deep – check your plans and permit to confirm hole size.

- If setting a line of stirrups set two ends first, allow concrete to harden around stirrups. Position intermediates to a string line. Set remainder stirrups into concrete.

Hint: Allow concrete to properly set. Rapid Set concrete – refer to manufacturers recommendation – normal concrete allow minimum overnight

- Stand Posts - Brace to level and square
- Hint Get braces ready first it will help with ensuring the process goes smoothly Make sure you have some assistance particularly when standing up posts and bracing
- Insert Posts, fasten bracing checking levels to ensure posts are vertical



ATTACH SIDE BEAMS

Check measurement from outside to outside of perimeter Posts.

Cut to timber length required

Note: prime timber in all joints prior to installation to assist with durability

Steel Frame with Eclipse Roof

Install all perimeter Beams first bolting using 2 x 10mm Glavanised Coach head Bolts..

On installation re-check to ensure structure has remained square by using your spirit level on Posts and Beams.

Set out framing bracket's (also referred to as joist hangers) using a builders square to side beams and fascia of dwelling.

Try to make sure they of equal distance apart.

Note: check to ensure max distance between proposed rafter spacing, per building plans has not been exceeded.

Hint: If you have cut beams using measurement from bottom of Posts, top of Post should therefore be in alignment when beams installed.

RAFTERS

Install rafters into framing brackets previously installed using special purpose framing nails. If rafters are to be cut i.e. to shape around a gutter ensure ends are sealed prior to installation.

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As most of preparation was completed whilst beams were on ground this part of the project is relatively simple. However still ensure that rafters are level using a spirit level.

Hint: *unsightly timber edges such as wane place to the top of the rafter. Any camber to beams should be placed to top to avoid sagging of the rafter or beam*

ROOFING

Most domestic application for a Pergola also entails the requirement of having structure fully or partially covered.

New Roofing products over the last 10 years have started to emerge for domestic consideration.

These include:

- Insulated Roofing – Solarspan from Bondor
- Adjustable – Opening and Closing roofing – from Eclipse
- Double Sided Colorbond for Felders in Centenary range.



These products whilst expensive offer great benefits to the outdoor living area than what is normally available from fixed sheet roofing products. Most products carry strong warranties and durability outcomes.



Totally Outdoors are a distributor for these newer roofing options

See their web site for details at www.totallyoutdoors.com.au

Common Roofing Products tend to be: -

Polycarbonate Roofing - normally carrying a Lifetime Warranty

Colorbond® Roofing - Bluescope production carrying a 25 year warranty - refer to manufactures web site for current product data of usage, warranty info.

Both these products offer the best long term durability and Aesthetic benefits.

Colorbond – is available in 22 different colours and is the perfect answer where full block out from the sun is required. Also used in conjunction with skylights such as Polycarbonate where some light is still required.

Polycarbonate – Offering long term product life plus light. Available in a limited range of tints which carry differing heat absorbing qualities. Generally we recommend low heat transmission sheet to ensure that sitting under polycarbonate is not too hot. Mostly these sheet also have other benefits dependent upon type and manufacturer.

We recommend considering the following fixed roof brands when considering your next project to ensure the quality and performance will meet your expectations

Click logo for SUNTUF Brochure

BlueScope & COLORBOND® steel are registered trademarks of BlueScope Steel Limited ABN 16 000 011 058



Click logo for Colorbond Colour Brochure

Note- Roofing products can only be installed by Registered Plumber and therefore providing installation instructions are removed.

Purchasing your Roofing products

Installing roofing can be made much easier by purchasing cut to length roofing, guttering and flashings for your project. Generally that will mean going to specialists roofing retailers who should be able to assist with all things you need to consider for your roofing.



We recommend to consider Robot Trading in Melbourne metro due to having a range of locations, competitive pricing and good range & delivery service.
Click on logo for web site

General Notes concerning your roofing outcome.

Consideration to amount of water to dwelling and that all new gutters must go to a legal point of discharge.

Maximum run of guttering per downpipe is 12 meters.

If extra water going to dwelling for example Gable Verandahs then upsizing your existing downpipes and installing rain heads should be considered.

Consider feeding water to a water tank remain a sensible addition to your project.

Thinking for building a project please visit these other links on our web site

- Check out our plan & permit service
- Building a Deck
- Government & Local Councils Links

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Project sheets are produced purely for a customer information guide and service only to be considered prior to embarking on a building project..

The Project Centre accepts no responsibility or liability from its use.

The Project Centre recommends and suggests that clients should always consult local council and consider consulting or employing a registered qualified building practitioner prior to embarking on any building project.

