

# EMERGING ARCHITECTURE

The *Architectural Review* renews its commitment to emerging architecture with this regular series presenting fresh and stimulating projects from architects worldwide. This month we highlight three practices from Australia. They all work on residential projects but there is a clear sense of the broader social experience that inspires them: from restaurants to retail work, as well as for sustainable and ethical living. The practices acknowledge current socio-economic challenges, such as affordability, and share a belief in how architects and architecture can help solve these problems. They also embrace a sense of place - in their obvious enthusiasm for natural materials such as native timber, and with a freshness in their relationship to the local landscape. This series is an extension of the annual AR Emerging Architecture Awards, now in their 17th year, which reward the best work with a £10,000 prize fund. Completed projects in a wide variety of categories will be considered. The deadline is 28 August.

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## CAIRNS JESSE BENNETT

**Where are you based?** Cairns, tropical Far North Queensland.

**What kind of work do you do?**

Residential architecture/interior design, but this is expanding into restaurants and retail. We also design handcrafted timber fittings.

**What's it like being an architect where you are?** Challenging and rewarding. We're surrounded by striking natural beauty, and I enjoy the relative lack of a 'design' scene so I can focus on my own style.

**What is the context in which you are working?** Cairns is geographically insulated from Australia's major centres. With a population of just 142,000, Cairns has a low socio-economic status and salaries are below the national average. So land and houses are cheap and attractive to residents, and also to interstate and international buyers. Cairns is still developing architecturally, with few notable buildings.

**What inspires you?** Cairns - from the rainforests to the pristine beaches. Travel - which influences my designs: materials, colours and formations. And product design - Italian motorcycles, coffee machines and musical instruments.

**What project are you most proud of and why?** Planchonella House, my home designed with my wife Anne-Marie (an interior designer). Managing site and budget was challenging, but we had total design freedom.

When I look back, such as at the hand-placed gabion walls we built over a horrid tropical summer, I'm so proud I finished the job.

**What is unique about your work?** The detail and inclusion of custom concepts. I push ideas, budgets and expectations. For example, creating custom glass shower lites in bathrooms, or curved sliding doors. I like to have joinery and components made on-site.

**What is your favourite building material?** Timber: the warmth, texture and patina over time.

**What would be your ideal project?** Hospitality design, in particular cafés and restaurants. A hotel/bar in Italy or Greece would be amazing!

**What do you want to be remembered for?** Joyful spaces that enrich daily life.