

## Design, Lifestyle and Planning Hints and Tips

### 1. Establish your Design Criteria

Some design considerations can include:

- providing maximum light,
- cooling the house,
- providing a roofed area to connect the garden with the house,
- harmonising with the geometry of existing paving patterns,
- creating an indoor garden or conservatory effect.

You may need to prioritise your design criteria e.g. light versus heat.

### 2. Obtain Maximum Value for Money:

This can best be achieved by our design service.

- a. Avoid the cost of extra permits and fees: Non complying structures, i.e. structures which may adversely impact on your neighbour (e.g. restricting light to neighbour's bedrooms should be avoided).
- b. There comes a point in a design when extra beams are required to span larger distances. If you can keep the dimensions of your design within certain parameters you can obtain maximum value for money.
- c. Best value for money is achieved by using the standard range of colours and standard range of Al Fresco beams and roofing profiles.

### 3. Custom Designing

At Al Fresco we have a wide range of columns, beam sizes, roof profiles, tints and accessories. We can assist you in creating a custom designed outdoor patio and entertainment area to

meet your individual need. For example:

#### a. Federation or Victorian Style

You can choose from a large range of turned verandah posts, finials, friezework and gable infills. You can also use gable portals and gazebos to good effect all built out of low-maintenance Colorbond®.

#### b. Georgian Style

Choose chunky columns (100 x 100mm), deep beams (200mm to 400mm), a low gable pitch (15 degrees) with deep barge capping on the gable.

#### c. Contemporary Look

Use twin wall polycarbonate with a tint that suits the ambience you want to create. Your front fascia beam could be deep, hiding the custom box guttering. Columns with in-built lighting can be very effective here.

#### d. Incorporating the Garden

Choose translucent roofing with a soft green tint. Use shade cloth in flyscreen type panels mounted over pergola frames. Incorporate open sections over flower beds in your design. Use staggered Colorbond® lattice panels along the fence or as area dividers. These ideas can effectively be used by people who want to create a sanctuary from the heat of high summer.

### 4. Other Design Tips

A well designed Colorbond® patio cover, pergola or conservatory can add many thousands of dollars to the value of your house. This is very important if your house has design limitations, such as:

- a. **Your house has no eaves and/or is built on a concrete slab and is uncomfortably hot in summer.**

You may already be experiencing high energy bills. If you put your house on the market in a few years time you will be at a competitive disadvantage with the new five star energy rated houses.

New legislation from July 2004 means all new houses must include energy efficient designs and systems. For you, an Al Fresco patio cover or pergola is essential!

Our clients regularly report to us that their Al Fresco patio cover or pergola makes the house 10 degrees cooler during the heat wave season.

**b. Your house has low ceilings**

These can be off-putting to prospective purchasers of your home. You can counteract this effect by installing a roof-mounted patio cover preferably with a gable roof.

After experiencing 7 foot 6 inch ceilings inside the house, the higher Al Fresco roof mounted structure creates a positive psychological impact of spaciousness. This patio area can be made habitable all year round with glass balustrade and BBQ propane heaters.

**c. Creating Intimacy**

The ceilings in your house may be very high. You can create an interesting, more intimate outdoor entertainment area by having one or more heights to your covered patio area. You can create more intimacy with screens or balustrades.

## Lifestyle Hints and Tips

**1. Your Guest list**

Do you entertain often? Do you invite 5-10, 10-15 or 45-60 people for a barbeque? We recommend that the size of your patio cover be designed according to the typical number of guests, not the maximum number, and certainly not according to the size of your concrete paving.

**2. Your Future Needs**

Your Al Fresco structure will last for decades, time enough for your small children to

become adults. Can your design be a multi-purpose one? Can the patio cover be used as a carport for a few years? Do you have any desire to build a spa, or do you have a future need for an extra enclosed living area? If the answer is yes, then it may be sensible to incorporate extra columns into the initial design.

**3. Low Maintenance Living**

Australians work longer and harder than ever, so very few homeowners want to spend precious days off with sandpaper, turps, drop sheets and paintbrush to maintain their timber pergola. The only maintenance your Al Fresco lifestyle extension requires is a wash down with soap and water every six months.

**4. Privacy**

We can design all the privacy from neighbours that you require with a range of translucent gable and flat deck roofing, and a choice of several different privacy screen options to suit all budgets.

**5. Evening Functions**

Entertaining after a long working day demands quick preparation time – i.e. uncomplicated barbeques.

Outdoor entertaining can be easily conducted at night throughout the year. You can incorporate lighting into an Al Fresco patio cover by running wiring through the rafters. You can install either balustrading or bistro blinds around the perimeter of the structure, and with the aid of a portable gas heater you can make the patio area warm and cosy on cooler evenings.

## Planning Hints and Tips

**1. Landscape Design**

Your new Al Fresco patio cover may form part of an overall landscape design. It is wise to arrange for a site inspection from one of our designers early because:

- i. Any roofed structure needs to have downpipes connected to stormwater

lines. Problems may arise if you pour your pattern concrete before the patio cover is designed.

- ii. Most people like to synchronise the elements that make up their landscape garden. Careful planning in the siting of water features, privacy screens, retaining walls and pathways can all enhance the aesthetic qualities of your new Al Fresco lifestyle extension.

## 2. For the Budget Conscious

We can help you achieve maximum value for money without cutting corners. To this end we recommend:

- i. Use of standard Colorbond® colours.

- ii. Designs that minimise wastage.
- iii. Designs that don't over-engineer.
- iv. Use of a complying structure. ( see building permits )

## 3. Installation in Stages

Like Ikea™ furniture, Al Fresco is modular and can be built in stages to suit your budget. We can design, prepare CAD generated working drawings, and obtain a building permit for the complete project. This building permit is valid for two years. You can proceed with stage 1 and enjoy a large gable over the patio door in the knowledge that the final stage can be seamlessly added on when finances allow.

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