

Axolotl metal really 'shines' when used in kitchens and the one featured here is another award winning prototype - even if the shine is a bit rusty! Designed by David Vago and Andrew Tzannes from Habitation it was the centrepiece of their garden exhibition at Sydney in Bloom. The kitchen, awarded first prize for Design Excellence, is coated in Axolotl's brown rust creating an unusual and impactful choice, especially for the outdoors.

Another stunning kitchen, awarded NSW HIA 'Kitchen of the Year' in November also featured Axolotl. The kitchen was designed by Lesley Keogh and manufactured by P & K Joinery.

In other news, Axolotl trade shows in India, Korea, Russia and London were hosted in September and were all a huge success. More information on 100% Design in London inside this issue.

We were again proud to be a Gold sponsor of the Enmore Design Centre's interior decoration graduate exhibition in November. As always, the calibre of the work was outstanding, and the graduation night was a huge success. We wish all the students well with their careers.

We have recently updated a number of product specific slideshows on our website allowing the latest projects and designs to be easily downloaded. Go to: www.axolotlmetal.com/slideshow.htm - to see this work.

Onto the contents of this issue.

This quarter continues the door theme of recent issues. From sleek and modern to hand carved doors reminiscent of days when intricately detailed artisanship dominated the design sensibility. It's easy to see how Axolotl can span any design philosophy. We also feature our new panelling system, feature walls, kitchens, furniture and more.

Sam Marshall joins us at Insight. Another of the prestigious architects involved in the 'Signature Series', his Signature door design will be showcased in a future issue.

Internally, those of you who have worked with Chris Taylor will be delighted to hear that he has been appointed General Manager of the Axolotl domestic operation, based in Matraville. One of Chris' first projects will be to investigate opening a second showroom in Melbourne this year to make it easier for architects and designers to view completed Axolotl work. Graeme Barr has recently joined the team to take up the role of Production Manager and ensure the smooth processes and high quality craftsmanship that separate Axolotl from the competition are maintained.

A final bit of news sees Axolotl hit the big time. Sculptures coated by Axolotl London became a part of history as they stand side by side with Nelsons Column in Trafalgar Square. The sculptures were part of a monument to world peace, and signed by Bob Geldof, Terry Waite, Desmond Tutu and Hans Blix. The sculptures were unveiled in front of a big band, choir and huge crowd and, we believe, were also the first Axolotl structures ever to be blessed by a bishop!

All of us at Axolotl hope you enjoyed the holiday season and look forward to seeing you in 2005.



Photography by Sean Thomas



Doors by Design

Designed by Stephen Gergely from Gergely and Pinter these beautiful doors, pictured left and right, create an imposing entrance to an Eastern Suburbs mansion.

Florentine Bronze and glass complement each other, with the pattern of slumped glass picked up by the details of the doors.

These handcarved doors hark back to an era of fine bespoke workmanship, yet reflect the modern advantages of working with Axolotl metal.



100% Success

Axolotl proved a spectacular hit when it showed at 100% Design in London.

One of our newest licensees, Axolotl London hosted and designed the stand at this prestigious event held at the Earl's Court Exhibition Centre.

Collaborations with the internationally revered design houses Edra, Vitra and Kundalini paid a huge compliment to the quality of the Axolotl product, invented and developed in Australia.

Iconic chair designs were constructed from timber, fibreglass, polypropylene and GRP and then coated in Axolotl rust, nickel, aluminium and bronze pearl.

Not only were a variety of different substrates coated, but the compound shapes of the chairs once again proved that there is little that can't be enhanced through the application of Axolotl metal.

To view detailed images of the chairs, please visit our UK website - www.axolotlmetal.co.uk



Garden of Eden

The new Eden Gardens at North Ryde was opened in late 2004 providing a great new gardening experience for the inner west.

The gardening centre stands apart with spectacular signage coated in Axolotl Orange Rust and lit by enormous lightboxes.

Pictured here is Axolotl partner and creative director, Kim Torma, making the final preparations to the sign at the Matraville factory. Once completed it was crane mounted onto a truck to be transported to the site for installation.

Cooking with Metal

The beauty of nickel is taken to new levels as this house in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs testifies.

Designed by Richard Cullinan, with the interiors by Rosemary Cook, the house has been given a major overhaul

in Axolotl nickel, from the kitchen to the wardrobes, bathroom vanities and all internal doors. The doors are part of our exclusive range designed by Burley Katon Halliday. The doors selected were "Patches", one of three designs by this pre-eminent design house and which can be made to order to fit any dimension. The door design was intended for external use, however as Rosemary has shown it can create a stunning impact internally.





Extreme Makeover

Some of the best architecture is when the personality of the surroundings is reflected in the end result.

The major facelift of Oxford Square in Sydney's Darlinghurst by architects Catherine Sullivan and Associates certainly vibrates with the colourful diversity of the locale.

Axolotl utilised aluminium panels for the external work, and MDF panels for the internal, coating them in a variety of metals - nickel, zinc, aluminium plus a variety of alloys.

Each panel was bordered by a stainless steel edge which accentuated the lustre of the metals. The final effect is unique and attractive whilst being durable enough to withstand the heavy traffic expected in the area.

From Russia with Love

Doors continue to be a showcase for the intricacy and beauty of what can be achieved with Axolotl metals as demonstrated in the door pictured right.

Constructed and coated by Axolotl in Russia the door was bonded with brass and the flower pattern highlighted in aluminium.

Whilst much of Axolotl's work is confined to the application of metal to existing structures we also use artisans who bring the skill and craftsmanship of yesteryear to many projects such as this.



We are proud that Russia is continuing the tradition of meeting the challenges with the meticulous quality that Axolotl stands for.



Fashionable Looks

Pewter is certainly the 'new black' if the number of specifications we have received lately is anything to go



by. It's not hard to see why when you look at these beautiful doors created for a private residence in Bellevue Hill.

Coated in smooth Pewter on the face panels and a light textured pewter within the channels, the door lines follow the frames of the sidelights and reflect the horizontal lines of the construction.

If you would like to see a little of what you could achieve in your own home or we can email you a slideshow of completed Axolotl doors Just send your request to info@axolotlmetal.com. Slideshows are also available for kitchens, panelling, screens, feature walls and more.

Exel-lent Wall

This dramatic feature wall was designed by Alison Nicol from Leffler Simes for the new Exel headquarters in Mascot.

Featuring grooved MDF panels skewed at varying angles to the wall, the MDF feature panels were bonded with both Axolotl Copper and Zinc to create a unique pattern.

Any pattern at all can be made with Axolotl metal, thanks to our unique process where metal is manipulated in a liquid form prior to application. Many of our clients have taken advantage of this to create one-off features, incorporate company branding or highlight existing design features such as wallpaper.

Contact Axolotl for more information on our new range of feature walls or to have one designed and constructed to your specifications.



insight

Each quarter Alchemy puts a series of questions to an industry luminary to an insight into both their talent and their feel for the future. This issue we introduce Sam Marshall from Architect Marshall. Sam's contemporary designs have won him numerous awards over the years, recognition for what we are sure you will agree is an enormous talent.

What keeps you inspired?

The amazing world around me, people's ability to continue to innovate when it seems everything has been created, the optimism of the 1960's and especially contemporary art.

What project do you consider to be your greatest achievement so far?

Having a beautiful wife and two beautiful daughters.

Have you ever refused to comply with a client request or design? If so, why?

All the time. If it wasn't that way, clients wouldn't employ architects.

Are there any architects whose work encapsulates your own ideals?

Many but not all in one person.

Did/do you have a mentor?

George Freeman pointed me in the right direction,

opening my eyes to masterful articulation of space, light and materials, that anything is possible and to be ever creative is all important.

Which Australian building excites you the most?

Yike! I think Australia Square Tower by Harry Seidler is a cracker that will continue to last the test of time. It is elegant, well proportioned, structurally innovative, and generous and democratic like no other at street level. It gave Sydney its only public Calder sculpture, Corb tapestry and now stunning Sol Lewitt mural. It's construction method was innovative and it also brought Nervi to Australia.



What do you see as key trends over the next couple of years in domestic or commercial design?

Demand for unique expression.

Which trend in architecture or design are you totally over?

Slats and train smash architecture.

Do you see a lot of development in Sydney over the next year or so?

Yes – it's a great place to live.



Top Table

This beautiful table was designed by Michael Tartu of MT Designs and bonded with Axolotl metals. Constructed from a steel and timber 'sandwich' construction, the tops and legs are designed to fit together without fixings of any kind. The bracing is built in and concealed. There are 32 inlay designs available for the table tops, ranging from simple diamond and square shapes to more abstract forms.

For more information contact Axolotl, or call Michael on 4784 2130 or 0400 457 863, email mikku2@bigpond.com or visit the website at www.mtdesign.com.au,

Hot New Company

Axolotl are proud to be associated with The Fire Company, the inventors and manufacturers of the Australian innovation, the EcoSmart® Fire – an environmentally friendly open fireplace.

Referred to as the "fireplace of the future", the EcoSmart® Fire is flueless and does not require any installation or utility connection for fuel supply, which makes it ideal for apartment and city living.

The EcoSmart® Fire not only looks like the 'real thing', its unique modern edge and smart design features make them an attractive heating solution for all environments. They use Methylated Spirits (Ethanol) as the fuel which burns clean and makes them very easy to maintain.

And they just got even hotter! The Fire Company has extended their range of finishes to include the entire palette of Axolotl metals. Visit www.ecosmartfire.com or call 02 9997 3050 to find out more.

