



## DEFENDING A NATIVE STONE

### BEST RESIDENTIAL PROJECT

This residential project is in an area of mixed architectural styles, with several heritage-listed houses nearby. The corner site is a high-traffic spot, so the building needed to have a sense of enclosure and protection from noise, as well as visual privacy.

With this in mind, B.E. Architecture placed the main living and sleeping quarters on the first floor to allow for separation from the street. Natural lighting comes mostly from internal light courts – the floor to ceiling glass is fully private. The only major window visible from the street is a 6 metre piece of sliding glass which opens fully, converting internal living space into a balcony area.

The notion of a bunker-like structure is reinforced by the use of bluestone cladding for the 30 metre long building. Bluestone was selected because of its light grey colour and subtle finish. Cost was also a factor: with up to 400 square metres of surface to cover, the fact that bluestone is comparatively inexpensive was an advantage.

To exaggerate the horizontality and length of the building, the architects developed a pattern of 1 metre bands butted up against each other to form 2 metre wide bays of panels. These panels varied in thickness from 20, 30 to 40 mm and in height from 100, 200 to 300 mm. This random patterning created a ‘chattered’ effect across the surface. Despite being random, every panel’s location had to be calculated to insure that no pattern arose.

In addition, to reinforce the bluestone as the building itself – and not just an applied skin – wherever possible, the bluestone returns around walls, reveals and indents to create a notion of a considered, carved object.

The fact that the stone was diamond-sawn and from the Lara quarry ensured an evenness of colour (with a unique pitted feature) that does not compete with the random pattern and will patina nicely with age.

### Specifications

**Project:**  
Private residence

**Architect:**  
B.E. Architecture

**Builder:**  
Good Constructions

**Material:**  
Diamond-sawn bluestone, various thicknesses and widths

**Supplier:**  
Victorian Bluestone Quarries  
(Avalon/Lara Quarry)

**Location:**  
South Yarra, Vic