

abode
PROPERTY GUIDE



aura
DESIGNS

Atelier for Urban and Regional Architecture (aura) is an emerging design practice with a philosophy revolving around context that includes the social and traditional aspects of our cultural heritage.

Speaking with Richard Eastman, you realize there is a whole language that you have yet to explore. It is the language of architecture. And Richard speaks it with such fluency & grace, you are left with no doubt that this is a man following his passion. Richard heads up AURA, a convenient acronym for Atelier for Urban and Regional Architecture. "It is a big name for a small & emerging design practice, where the underlying message is a philosophy of context. The context is our landscape and not just urban, natural or physical, but also our social and traditional fabrics. We design with a mixture of wonder & responsibility." Relocating here just 5 years ago, Richard's study and practical exploration of the field of architecture has taken him to remote & intriguing parts of

the world. Richard enrolled at Leuven University in Belgium to study post graduate Heritage restoration & Conservation after completing his studies at RMIT in Melbourne. The Belgium course of study was not undertaken lightly, with Richard having to learn French to complete. This was followed by seven years of personal post graduate 'homework' and another language: Dutch. "I wanted to be able to immerse myself in what I had learned. I began small with a total restoration of a house in Utrecht and quickly followed it up with a heritage-listed farm in the south of the Netherlands. Apart from the benefits of the spectacular physical space, it had its intangible rewards too" says Richard. "This became an ideal learning process in balancing the sensitivities of heritage fabric with the pragmatics of modern living – all in buildings

built 250 years ago to house cows, pigs, straw and potatoes." At the other end of the spectrum, Richard has been intimately involved with large-scale complex commercial developments such as shopping centres, hotels, offices & restaurants, often posed in heritage settings. "At this same time sustainability was in its infant phase and began in the form of improved technologies, high quality relevant, contemporary solutions, with a timeless quality. Built environment surviving through time was the sustainable paradigm. In the 90's, thriving economies and changing attitudes of initiators/developers, had, in this period witnessed and delivered an exponential growth of higher quality projects. But, sustainability is now an infinitely broader field and the goal posts have shifted" **Continued...**

Architecture
with empathy

for the environment, urban landscape and culture.



aura

atelier for urban & regional architecture

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