

BUSH TUCKER

A new and colourful sight greets visitors to a new suburb in Australia's outback capital of Alice Springs, where a rich cultural history is mirrored in a multilayered and coloured fence made from COLORBOND® steel. Words **Glenn Morrison** Photography **Peter Barnes; Susan Dugdale & Associates**

At the southern entrance to Alice Springs, not far from the remote town's busy airport, is the recently-established suburb of Kilgariff.

All is generally quiet at the settlement, where there has been little to report since it welcomed residents in 2015 to the stunning landscapes of the Red Centre and the rich blue of its vast skies.

But the fence that encloses the suburb is now creating something of a stir, catching the attention of passers-by as well as those with an appreciation of architecture and craftsmanship.

The spectacle is all part of a clever and innovative design by Central Australian architects Susan Dugdale & Associates, a design which won them the 2018 Australian Institute of Architects Northern Territory Chapter 2018 COLORBOND® Award for Steel Architecture.

The fence depicts the humble bush passionfruit, a plant endemic to the river flats near the Alice Springs Airport, and an important part of the Indigenous cultures of the region.

To botanists, the bush passionfruit is known as *Capparis spinosa* var. *nummularia* and grows abundantly in the vicinity. To local Aboriginal group the Arrernte, the dense, spiky shrub is known as *Arrutnenge*, a widely-prized bush food.

Project architect Miriam Wallace used her pencil sketches of the plant to design the fence motif. "We wanted to do something that was 'of here'," says Ms Wallace. "Our fauna and flora are so different from everywhere else and bush passionfruit is all-around here."

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The fence's base-level structure is designed for maximum material efficiency. Cladding made from made from COLORBOND® steel in LYSAGHT TRIMDEK® profile, in the colours Monument® and Surfmist®, runs the width of two full sheets, horizontally, spanning between cantilevered fence posts with no rails. The base colours underlap and overlap each other, variously.

A second layer of cut-to-shape cladding, also made from COLORBOND® steel in LYSAGHT TRIMDEK® profile, this time variously in the colours Mangrove®, Gully® and Paperbark®, overlays perfectly into the base layer, further building on the pattern and colour pallet – the latter of which represents the fruit's different growth stages.

The sheets of cladding made from COLORBOND® steel in LYSAGHT TRIMDEK® profile are butted neatly, aligning to create a smooth, clean finish at the fence's top and bottom. No flashings or trims were added to the edges or corners of the fence. Silicon sealant is used to prevent water reaching areas where the layers of cladding made from COLORBOND® steel in LYSAGHT TRIMDEK® profile overlap.

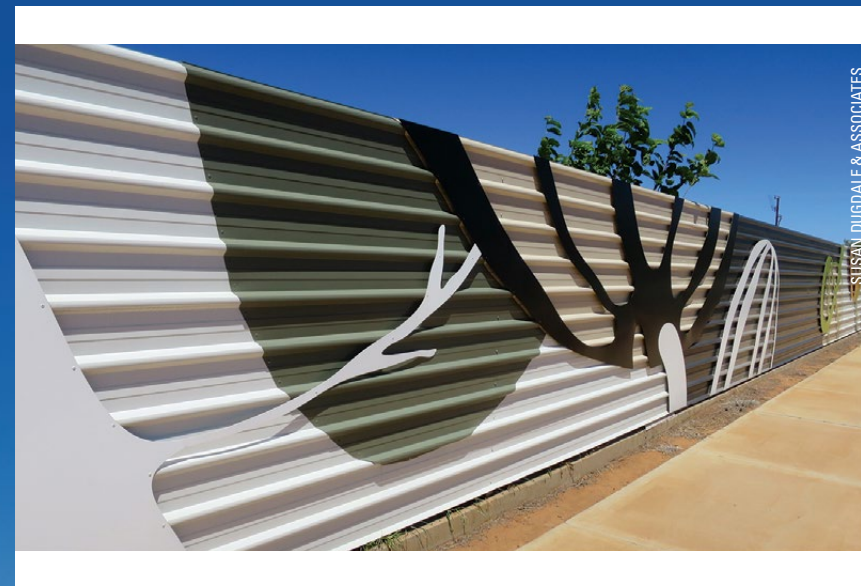
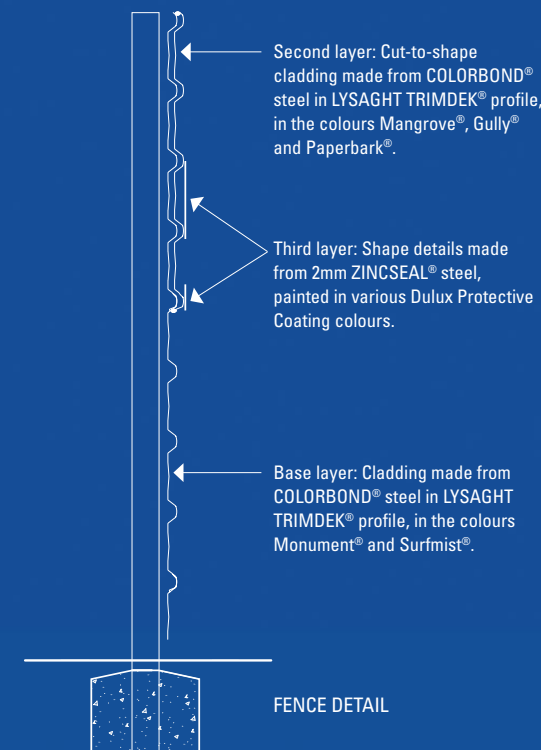
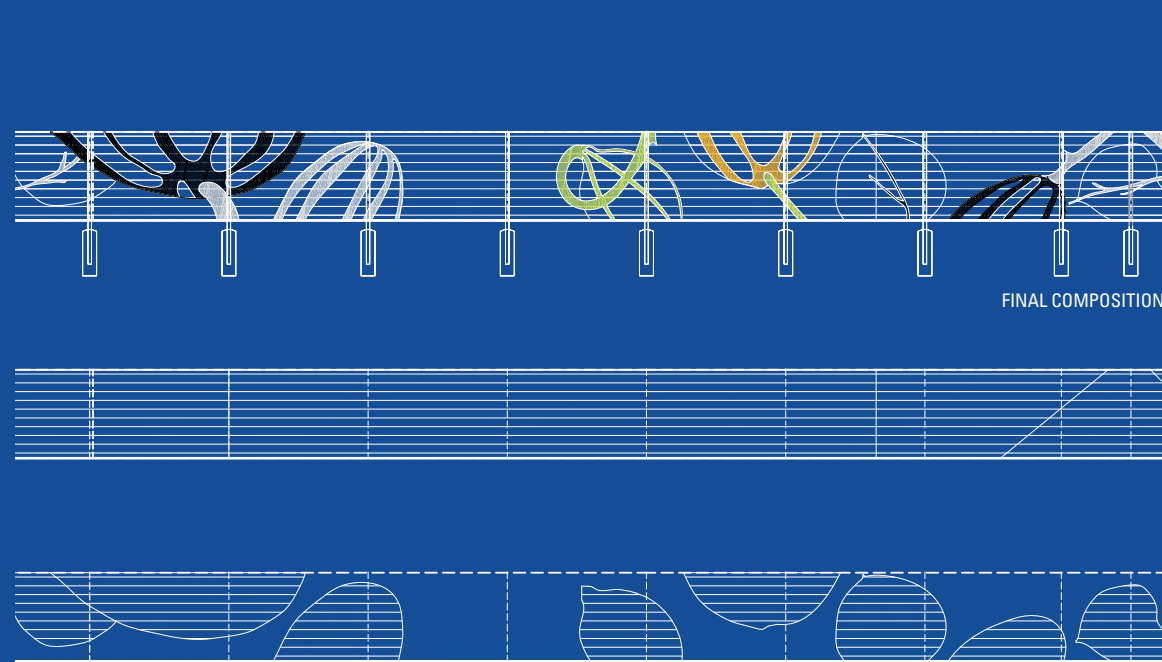
Ms Wallace gave her drawings to Alice Springs steel craftsman David Rilstone of Plazart, who specialises in cutting artistic forms.

Mr Rilstone cut the intricate shapes for the third and final layer of the fence, which is made from 2mm ZINCSEAL® steel, on a CNC plasma-cutter.

BlueScope ZINCSEAL® steel is a hot-dipped zinc/iron alloy-coated cold-rolled steel which has a smooth finish suitable for direct on-painting in critical surface applications. It was treated with a two-pack epoxy* and painted in various Dulux Protective Coating colours to form a final decorative overlay in the fence assembly.

The completed fence contributes an important sense of identity for the recently created suburb, its practicality wrapped in aesthetic flamboyance and its cultural significance providing a point of appreciation for those in observance of such kinetic beauty. **SP**

*The overpainting of BlueScope products will void any warranties issued by BlueScope. For details on overpainting and restoration of exterior steel products, please refer to BlueScope Technical Bulletin TB-2.



PROJECT Kilgariff Fence and Entry **CLIENT** Land Development Corporation **ARCHITECT** Susan Dugdale & Associates **PROJECT TEAM** Susan Dugdale, Miriam Wallace **PRINCIPAL STEEL COMPONENTS** Base layer: Cladding made from made from COLORBOND® steel in LYSAGHT TRIMDEK® profile, in the colours Monument® and Surfmist®. Second layer: Cut-to-shape cladding made from COLORBOND® steel in LYSAGHT TRIMDEK® profile, in the colours Mangrove®, Gully® and Paperbark®. Third layer: Shape details made from 2mm ZINCSEAL® steel, painted in various Dulux Protective Coating colours **BUILDER** Stage 1: Sitzler Bros. Stage 2: Patrick Homes & Construction **STEEL FABRICATOR** Plazart/Ross Engineering **STRUCTURAL & CIVIL ENGINEER** NJA Consulting Engineers **LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS** Tony Parkin **PROJECT TIMEFRAME** April 2014 - August 2015 **AWARDS** 2018 Australian Institute of Architects Northern Territory Chapter 2018 COLORBOND® Award for Steel Architecture

