



Case Study

The Piano House



The Ever Art Wood Battens Enhance Flow and Transparency in a Private Residence in Kew.

Background

Nestled on an 880 square metre plot in the Melbourne inner-city suburb of Kew, this home is a real dream come true for its residents. Years in planning and design in line with the personal vision of the owners, Daniel and Lidia, this knock-down and rebuild is an expression of their passions, desires and aspirations.

Aptly dubbed 'the piano house' by the lead designer on the project, Virginia Blue of Blue Fruit Interior Architecture and Design, the residence centres around its habitants' love for music and books - with a piano room and library at the heart of the home.

With the idea of transparency strongly defining the overall design, the use of glass and incorporation of voids across all levels connects various areas of the dwelling and creates an uninterrupted flow through the space - both inside and out.

Challenge

Equally as unique as the interior of the home, the exterior features a variety of rectangular shapes. This required careful consideration when it came to the choice of cladding for the facade. Building a back frame for a one-piece batten cladding solution was too complicated and would not work for the project.

The homeowners also had a specific vision for the type of window privacy screening they were looking to incorporate. Continuing the theme of transparency that is so prevalent throughout the house, the window screening had to align with the overall aesthetic - and an opaque solution that obstructs the view was not an option. Daniel explains: "We decided to use battens rather than opacity to screen selected windows early in the project. We love the concept - it's much nicer than looking at an opaque white surface and not being able to see outside."

Initially suggested by the main designer, the homeowners quickly understood the appeal of the Covet cladding. And - further cementing the clients' confidence in the brand beyond the appeal of the product - Covet's helpful, proactive and communicative team provided the clients with extra assurance during what turned out to be quite a challenging time. The residence was being completed during the pandemic with the battens arriving directly from Japan. "It was a little bit stressful but our contact at Covet was fantastic. Very responsive and direct with regards to how long everything was going to take, coming from Osaka in the middle of COVID-19," acknowledges Daniel appreciatively.

Solution

Covet's Ever Art Wood Kabebari two-part batten system was the perfect solution for the job. The two-part concealed fix profile enabled a straightforward installation - while mitred joints made it easy to wrap under the feature 'boxes' and on garage doors to provide the finished look.

The sleek, vertical lines of the Kabebari battens in dark, deep Kakicha colour mirror the vertical lines of the acoustic panelling inside and play off the overall colour scheme - creating the outside-inside flow the owners were striving to achieve. The product also lent itself perfectly to creating the kind of privacy screening the homeowners were after - the kind that doesn't obstruct the view and looks stunning both from afar and up close. In fact, the extraordinary realism of the battens and their alluring tactility have invited plenty of interest from Dan and Lidia's visitors and passers-by, who often feel compelled to touch the battens when walking past. Lidia says that the battens have sparked enthusiasm amongst some construction professionals too. "Lots of builders have driven past and stopped to ask 'What is this product? We want to know more!'" she explains with a smile.

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