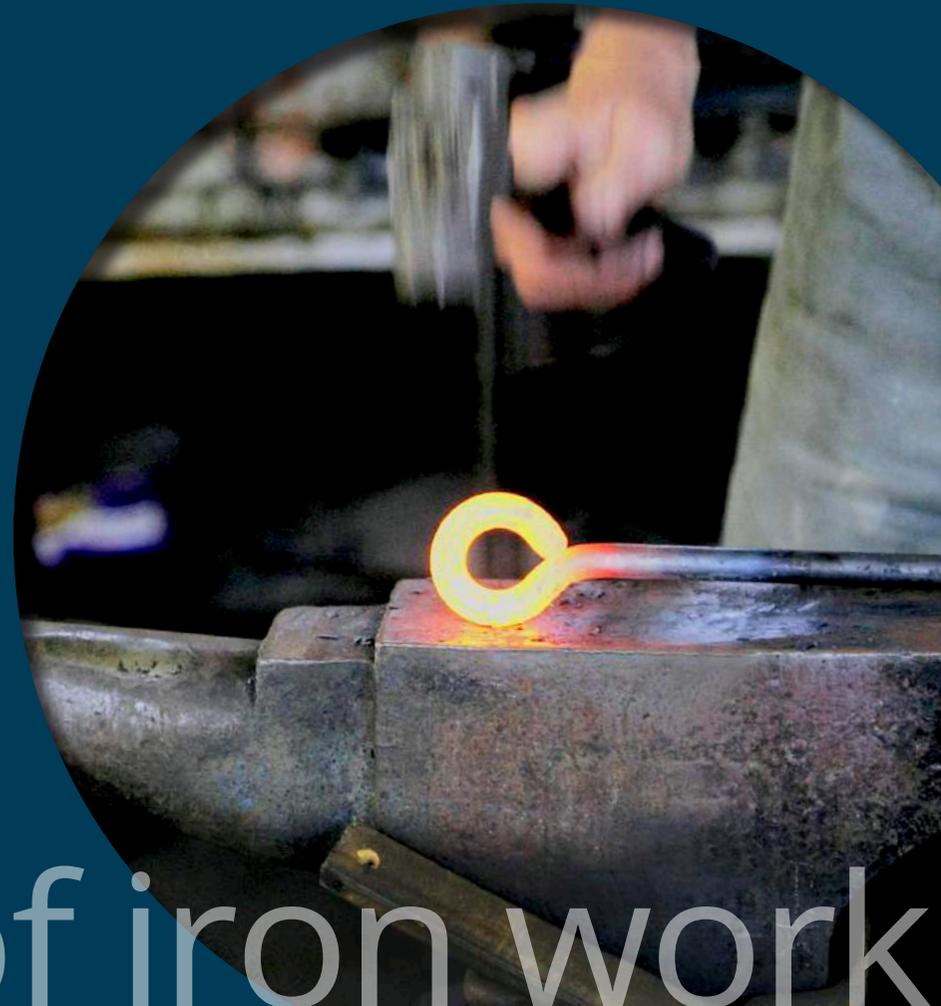




WROUGHT IRON

Our 12 Design Principles



the architects of iron work

THE 12 DESIGN PRINCIPLES OF HIGH QUALITY METALWORK

Creating value adding metalwork requires 12 key principles to be observed.

1. Aesthetically Pleasing

First impressions count – especially on entry gates, fences and staircase balustrades. We aim to create aesthetically pleasing designs that add value to your property. Aesthetics covers everything from the general appearance from a distance down to the minute details of joint design, neatness and methods of installation.

2. Architecturally Correct

Metalwork must complement the architectural style of the existing building. Exterior work must additionally be sympathetic with the local precinct – for example on rows of inner city terraces.

3. Functional and Comfortable

Well designed, skilfully crafted metalwork is easy to use and feels comfortable.

4. Correct Proportions

We use materials of appropriate weight and proportions to suit the items being made, whilst also blending well with the proportions of the property.

5. Life of Building Durability

The materials, manufacturing and

installation methods should ensure the work only ever requires periodic maintenance and can last the life of the building. Long lasting, quality products are more environmentally friendly.

6. Traditional Methods and Appearance

The appearance of the work should be as close as possible to that of genuine wrought iron work made and installed using the traditional, centuries old techniques.

For cost reasons, this may need to be achieved by innovative, modern techniques that provide the most authentic appearance. On heritage restoration projects though, we still use the same traditional methods as used by blacksmiths for centuries.

7. Suitable Corrosion Protection

Genuine wrought iron is a very corrosion resistant metal that is no longer mass produced. The Eiffel Tower was made from wrought iron when it was built in 1889. Today we use mild steel, which must be protected to provide life of building longevity, when exposed to the elements.



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8. Minimal Visual Welding

Ideally, there should not be any visible weld beads. Visible weld beads are unsightly and a sign of poor workmanship. Electric welding was never used on traditional wrought iron work.

Visible weld beads can be avoided by good design. On non heritage work, we can usually achieve the same appearance as traditional joining methods by the innovative use of modern techniques.

9. Using Solid Sections

Traditional wrought ironwork only ever used solid steel sections, with clean crisp lines.

Wherever possible, we try to avoid using rectangular or square tube sections, as their rounded corners and 'chunky pool fencing' look can detract greatly from the overall appearance.

10. Minimal Catalog Components

Because hand forging decorative elements or components such as scrolls is labour intensive and increases cost, mass produced, catalog components have become widely used. In Australia, only a relatively small selection is available and we see the same old designs everywhere. Their inappropriate and indiscriminate use has caused a race to the bottom where price is the main

difference. Nothing looks worse than a magnificent property cheapened by the inappropriate use of mass produced catalog components. We generally avoid their use.

11. High Quality Finishing

When a colour finish is required, powder coating is a modern, low cost method of 'painting' metalwork. We generally do not use it over hot dip galvanised steel when it is installed in a corrosive environment. It can break down and cause unsightly 'white rust' to appear, often requiring total replacement to rectify.

2 pack polyurethane paints are more expensive initially but offer the best long term protection over galvanised steel in corrosive environments. On internal work, there are many finishing options, including patina finishes. We will advise on the appropriate method when specifying and quoting.

12. Feel and Weight

Functional metalwork must feel right to use. A lightweight gate or a balustrade that flexes under load doesn't feel right. Only through the use of correct materials can metalwork feel right to use. Cutting costs by using lightweight materials is false economy, as it doesn't add value, even if is functional.

Considering and incorporating these 12 key principles in the design of our architectural metalwork is essential to creating high value work.



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Thank You



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