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THORNTON, SIMON AND FREDA

SIMON and Freda Thornton Architects was established in 1981 by partners Freda Thornton (1952–, Bachelor of Architecture, 1976) and Simon Thornton (1952–, Bachelor of Architecture 1977), both of whom graduated from the University of Melbourne. The Melbourne-based practice specialises in houses, house extensions and schools, and has maintained a strong environmentally sustainable design (ESD) focus since its inception.

Freda Thornton maintains a design approach based on drawing board skills and attention to detail. Hers is a unique aesthetic, combining hands-on practicality with a modest but delightful design sensibility not unlike that of the Arts and Crafts movement. Examples of work include the Malouf house (1991), the Parten–Malouf house, near Lake Glenmaggie, Vic. (1995), the award-winning Hinton house, Lake Glenmaggie, Vic. (2001) and the Contemplative house (2004) for her mother, the painter Helen Maudsley.

Simon Thornton has developed a genre which he calls ‘fiction architecture’, in which form, structure and space are primarily representational, in contrast to ‘creative non-fiction’ mainstream architecture. Examples of work include the Greek Village house, Macedon, Vic. (1987), the award-winning Lighthouse, Mt Macedon, Vic. (1993), the Bottle and Glass extension, Northcote, Vic. (1998), the Gryphon extension, Elwood, Vic. (2006) and the Aqueduct and Tent house (2009).

Simon Thornton has worked collaboratively with other architects, and with landscape architect Kate Cullity of Taylor Cullity Lethlean, on Strathmore Secondary College Stage I (2001). Many young architects have worked in the practice over the years, including Mary Bugeja, Kate Harrison, Lisa Moore and Chris Stanley (Splinter Society Architects).

MIRJANA LOZANOVA SKA

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