

SAM CRAWFORD ARCHITECT

SAM HAS WON NUMEROUS AWARDS FOR HIS BUNDEENA HOUSE, INCLUDING THE 2006 COLORBOND STEEL AWARD AND A COMMENDATION FOR NEW SINGLE HOUSING FROM THE RAIA. Partway through his studies, Sam Crawford took time off to become a builder's labourer. "I wanted to experience architecture first hand," he says. "I now know what it's like to be onsite, and understand much more about detailing and what can, and can't, be built." That's typical of Sam's approach, which was influenced early on by a talk by acclaimed architect Peter Stutchbury, with whom he later worked. "I was inspired by his honest use of materials, and the way he creates beauty out of simple things."

Sam, who "started talking about being an architect when I was about 10", doesn't believe there's such a thing as a 'Sam Crawford look', and says he would be surprised if anyone recognised one of his buildings straightaway.

"I admire architects with a definite vision, where clients come along for the ride, but I see us as coming up with functional solutions for clients' particular needs." The best result, he says, "is when a client loves living in a house and tells us they love the way the light changes during the day or how a room catches north-east breezes perfectly."

Perhaps surprisingly, the project Sam is most proud of is not the award-winning Bundeena house. "One is my sister's house, the first project I worked on. I was still a student, and had a chance to put my theoretical knowledge into practice."

The other, which has renewed his love of architecture, is a centre he designed for children orphaned by AIDS in Malawi, Africa. It will be used for everything from vocational training and counselling to table tennis, and Sam is now raising the funds to build it. "With a project like that, I feel we can make a small difference to the world." →

Find out more at www.samcrawfordarchitects.com.au.

