

wood iron design



'Forged steel has an honesty and depth that invests it with a special quality and character'

THE MAKING / FORGING PROCESS

Blacksmithing is defined as the artisanal process of working and forming hot steel. Solid sections of steel are heated to working temperature (between 900 and 1500 degrees Celsius) and wrought to shape using a variety of tools and machinery. On most projects the components that make up the design are first carefully forged, compared to a 1:1 scale workshop drawing and then joined using traditional techniques such as mortise and tenon, wraps, collars, rivets, screws, bolts, pins, and fire welding. Texture can also be achieved naturally through the forging process.

Mild steel is the material that modern artist blacksmiths use today, although it is not unusual to use stainless steel, bronze, brass or even titanium. Heating of materials is achieved through a coke or coal forge or an LPG gas forge. Forging provides a means of shaping and joining metal that invests it with a special quality and unique character, far removed from the qualities of cut and weld fabrication.

Finishes

Galvanising is the process where molten zinc is applied to bare metal and provides up to 25 years protection from corrosion. Most outdoor commissions and sculptures are first galvanised then painted with quality 2 Pac paints. Pieces intended for indoor use are generally waxed, enabling the steel to retain its polished, almost pewter-like, natural finished state. The sculptural and architectural metalwork created by Wood Iron Design will last generations and definitely out-perform cheap alternatives.



Wrought iron is often used as a generic term for catalogue selected, mass produced components that are hurriedly welded together. While those products have their place, lending the term 'wrought iron' to them does not place them in the same class as the bespoke and artistic creations of a true blacksmith. (In fact, genuine wrought iron is a material which does not exist in any quantity today and is as expensive as sterling silver. It is now mainly used on restoration projects.)

The proliferation of generic, mass-produced iron-work only makes the unique, hand-forged creations of the artist blacksmith stand out all the more for their artistic qualities, integrity and unparalleled durability. It doesn't take a trained eye to immediately discern and enjoy the true quality of the works of a talented artist blacksmith.

Hand-forging creates a look that is nearly impossible to achieve using fabrication techniques. Fabrication definitely has a place for modern laser cut designs (which we offer at Wood Iron Design); however, fabricated iron work should not be confused with traditional, forged work.

'Ability to get a design that is personalised to your requirements'



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high quality sculptural & architectural metal work

wood iron design 



'There is no substitute for quality, my work will be enjoyed by generations for generations'

John Wood's Wood Iron Design is a modern metal working studio producing unique, high quality, traditional and contemporary products. The fascination of the endless possibilities that forged steel provides plus the depth and honesty of the finished piece, makes the artist blacksmith a truly unique craftsman.

"My sculptural and architectural pieces range from the fanciful to the functional and are enjoyed in public spaces, galleries, homes and gardens within Australia and abroad".

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"Whether I am working from the blank canvas of inspiration or within the discipline of a site-specific commission my passion is the constant, a fact I always want reflected in my work."



All commissions are individually designed, made and installed to uncompromising standards using traditional forging and modern fabricating techniques by the skilled staff at Wood Iron Design. The aesthetics and longevity of a traditionally joined and forged architectural piece of metalwork using the skills of the blacksmith are second to none; the beauty is in the detail as the forged elements express their character, every piece made using a variety of forges, presses, powerhammers and bespoke tooling.

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*beauty
is in the
detail*

'public spaces, galleries, homes & gardens'

DESIGN

Commissioning architectural iron work is usually a one-off investment in a permanent feature. It is essential that you invest properly in the design process. Not being limited to available components or what a machine can do and can't do, you have the ability to get a design that is personalised to your requirements.

Traditionally joined, hand forged iron work will almost always cost more than its fabricated equivalent but has an honesty and depth that invests it with a special interest and character.

Most iron work is commissioned because it has to work in a particular space; it is also an opportunity to introduce art and craft to the location. It is the ideal medium for visual expression. The combining of function and art in essential items such as gates, balustrades and railings can be more than just aesthetics to improve public and private spaces. With attention to detail throughout, curves that flow, joints that fit and careful consideration of construction to ensure a lifetime of service, both passion and craftsmanship will be evident in the finished piece.

HOW A COMMISSION PROCEEDS

Commissioning a piece may vary subject to the scale of the work, the client's location and the final setting for the installation. In general a commission includes -

- > Initial contact usually via email or telephone
- > Conceptual discussion
- > Budget established based on forged or fabricated metalwork or a combination
- > A site meeting is organised to discuss client requirements (at a set fee to cover the artist's time and travel)
- > Conceptual and working scale drawings are drafted following this meeting and invoiced at an agreed fee
- > Once both parties are satisfied with the design, the project is quoted and confirmed, along with an agreed deadline for the completed scope of works
- > 30% deposit is paid to commence the project, to assist with the purchase of materials specific to the work. Depending on the size of the project, further 10% part payments/instalments may be required at set intervals
- > Manufacture completed, finishes applied and client informed of installation date
- > Installation of finished works and final payment
- > Copyright applies to all designs produced by John Wood and remains with him