

# A & I Hall, Bangalow

## Backstage project

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### PROJECT BACKGROUND

The historic A & I Hall, Bangalow was built in 1911. Over nearly a hundred years it has served the needs of the Bangalow community.

Initially the building was the pavilion for the Bangalow A & I Society, serving as the major display venue for exhibits at the annual agricultural show. Over time, the uses of the Hall expanded and diversified and the Hall has been a cinema, a dance hall and meeting place. It has been the venue for boxing matches, concerts, roller skating and even at one time been the workshop for a blacksmith.

In the 1990s, this lovely old building had deteriorated to the point where it was seriously under threat of being bulldozed, rather than undertake the massive amount of work to restore it. Luckily for all concerned, the community mobilised, funding was obtained and work began to restore the Hall.

The initial phase of the work was completed in 1994 but funds at that time did not allow for the reinstatement of the backstage area.

In 2006 Byron Shire Council allocated funds of \$160,000 for the 'A & I Hall Backstage Project' and despite the tiny budget, the project has been completed without compromise.

### QUALITIES OF THE PROJECT

Integrates seamlessly with the existing historic structure.

References the historic elevation and footprint of the property, thus retaining the aesthetic character of its setting.

Visually references the unique materials of the original building. The A & I Hall is one of Australia's most unique examples of the use of pressed metal. The design references this and recontextualises that reference in the project by using an interior pattern on the exterior of the backstage extension.

Addresses the contemporary uses of the venue as a major performance space

Provides excellent access for equipment and deliveries.

Water conservation and reuse measures are in place in the project.

### ROLES OF THOSE INVOLVED

Design professionals and those involved with developing or managing the project.

Consultant	Function
Don Osborne	Heritage architect
Glen Parrington	Master builder
Clare Hopkins	Interior & colour design
Greg Alderson	Engineering solutions
Davey Aust.	Water management
Ground Force, Bangalow	Landscaping



### SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROJECT

**Melds sympathetically with the existing historical building**

**Maintains the aesthetics and character of the precinct.**

**Fulfils all required uses for the space**

**Resolves access and traffic flow issues**

**Dramatically improves the attractiveness of the venue to top class acts and events**

**Demonstrates community driven planning and development.**

**Utilises environmentally sustainable water uses in keeping with the aspirations of North Coast communities.**

**Enriches the cultural life of the community.**

**Utilises the wealth of creative and technical expertise within the immediate Bangalow community.**

**This project is not just a great design, it also adds significantly to a venue, which is a community and cultural focal point for both the village of Bangalow and also the region.**