



BIOGRAPHY GLENN MURCUTT

Glenn Murcutt is Australia's most internationally recognised architect. In 1992 he was awarded the Gold Medal of the Australian Institute of Architects; in 1996 he was awarded the Order of Australia (AO); in 2002 he received the Pritzker Prize, considered the equivalent of the Nobel Prize for architecture; and in 2009 he was awarded the Gold Medal of the American Institute of Architects.

The citation for the 'Pritzker Prize' for architecture stated:

Glenn Murcutt is a stark contrast to most of the highly visible architects of the day – his works are not large scale, the materials he works with, such as corrugated iron, are quite ordinary, certainly not luxurious; and he works alone. He acknowledges that his modernist inspiration has its roots in the work of Mies van der Rohe, but the Nordic tradition of Alvar Aalto, the Australian wool shed, and many other architects and designers such as Pierre Chareau, have been important to him as well. Add in the fact that all his designs are tempered by the land and climate of his native Australia, and you have the uniqueness that the jury has chosen to celebrate. While his primary focus is on houses, one of his public buildings completed in 1999, the Arthur and Yvonne Boyd Education centre, has achieved acclaim as well, critics calling it 'a masterwork'. – Thomas J. Pritzker

Born in London in 1936 to Australian parents, Murcutt spent his early childhood in New Guinea, before moving with his family to Sydney in 1941 where he graduated from Sydney Technical College (now the University of New South Wales) in 1961. Following a study tour of Europe and practical experience in leading architecture offices, he began his own practice in 1969. Since that time he has carried out his work predominantly alone, as a sole-practitioner, without staff but using creative collaborations on a project-by-project basis. He pursues an architecture that is rooted in Australia's culture and its diverse climate and topography, while being active internationally, teaching and lecturing as a professor at universities throughout the world.

Glenn Murcutt has received twenty-five Australian Architecture awards including the RAI A Gold Medal and was awarded the honour Order of Australia (AO) in 1996. Other International awards include the Alvar Aalto Medal, Finland; Richard Neutra Award, USA; the 'Green Pin' International Award for Architecture and Ecology, Denmark; and the Asia Pacific Culture and Architecture Design Award. He has recently been Visiting Professor of Architecture at Yale and Dublin University, has been Thomas Jefferson Professor at University of Virginia, Visiting Professor at the School of Architecture Aarhus, Denmark, and Visiting Professor at Montana State University. He has extensive international lecturing experience and has recently lectured at UCLA, Washington University St. Louis, Portland Museum, Maine, Federation of Icelandic Architects, Reykjavik, Danish Academy of Architects and Columbia University. He was a jury member for



the competition for the Jean-Marie Tjibaou Cultural Centre New Caledonia, Chair of the jury for the international student competition for a shelter for Alvar Aalto's boat, Jyväskylä, Finland, chair of the jury for a competition for the 'Peace Park', Gallipoli, Turkey, member of the jury for the spirit of Nature of Wood Architecture International Award, Finland and jury member for the competition for Forum Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Australia. He is now a jury member for the Pritzker Prize and Chair of the International Alvar Aalto Medal jury.

Publications on Glenn Murcutt include – 'Leaves of Iron : Glenn Murcutt, pioneer of an Australian architectural form', by Philip Drew, Collins and Angus and Robertson, Sydney (1991). First published by Law Book Company, Sydney (1985); 'Three Houses – architecture in detail'' by Elizabeth Farrelly, Phaidon, London (1993); 'Touch This Earth Lightly – Glenn Murcutt in his own words' by Philip Drew, Duffy and Snellgrove, Sydney (1999); 'Glenn Murcutt – buildings and projects 1962 – 2003' by Françoise Fromonot, Thames and Hudson, London (2003); 'Glenn Murcutt - a singular architectural practice' by Haig Beck and Jackie Cooper, Images Publishing, Melbourne (2006); and most recently 'The Architecture of Glenn Murcutt' and 'Glenn Murcutt: Thinking Drawing / Working Drawing' both by Tom Heneghan, Shoko Seyama, Catherine Lassen and Maryam Gusheh, TOTO, Tokyo (2008).

Film documentaries of Glenn Murcutt include 'Touch the Earth Lightly' by Peter Hyatt (of BHP Steel Profile) and TV Channel 9 documentaries produced by Catherine Hunter.