

LEGEND OF THE OUTLAW

*Taking inspiration from Ned Kelly's infamous last stand,
this monumental Australian home perfectly captures the spirit of defiance*

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COMMANDING A HIGH VANTAGE POINT IN VICTORIA'S BUSHLAND,

this striking property is designed to take in the blazing sunrises and sunsets that paint the horizon. For owner and builder Eddie Spain and his wife Dorothy, the six-year project to produce their groundbreaking home with its 360-degree views was a test of strength and determination. It's fitting, then, that its design takes inspiration from one of Australia's most tenacious folk heroes.

Conceived by Eddie and designed by architect Robert Harwood, the house is dressed in an armour of gradually rusting Corten steel panels. These mimic the bulletproof attire donned by Ned Kelly, the country's most infamous outlaw bushranger, and his gang before their legendary last stand against the police. Forming a protective shield, the panels wrap around the contemporary H-shaped structure, which is raised on a concrete base clad in locally sourced granite.

Climb the concrete staircase that leads into the belly of this home, and you are met by a gallery-like hallway that links its two wings.

Head westwards, and you find the kitchen and main living area, as well as Eddie and Dorothy's palatial 120-square-metre bedroom suite. To the east lies an area for guests, with three bedrooms and a separate lounge. This home may be vast, but thanks to Dorothy's close work with interior designer Jessica Bettenay of Resident Avenue, it never feels cavernous or sterile. 'I was adamant that if we were to build and live in a home this modern, it would have to be warm and welcoming,' says Dorothy. 'Jessica layered colours of the surrounding terrain, so despite having a lot of plain white walls and a concrete floor, the rooms feel incredibly cocooning.'

This pioneering couple are now embarking on stage two of their epic build, completing the basement level that will contain a mud room, kitchenette and cellar. It's the final step in ensuring that this remarkable home secures its own place in local folklore. robertharwoodarchitects.com; residentavenue.com.au







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