

# Showroom from the outside-in

**The first thing visitors to F & M Fabricators' new industrial facility will be greeted with when it opens this January is its commitment to quality Australian-made flat steel product.**

F & M in southern Brisbane produces flashings for metal roof systems and other architectural applications, custom gutter profiles and for commercial and industrial applications made from BlueScope steel as well as stainless steel, aluminium and copper for commercial and industrial building projects in South East Queensland and Northern NSW. It particularly specialises in custom fabrication of coated steel from BlueScope like well established brands, COLORBOND®, ZINCALUME® and GALVABOND® in light and heavy gauges. All roofs, gutters, flashings, louvres and ridge vent chosen for the new industrial facility are of COLORBOND® in either the energy efficient Coolmax® or Metallic finishes whilst the roof profile is Lysaght 0.48 gauge held with concealed fastened KLIP-LOK®.

F & M Fabricators Manager, **Peter Kahl** said they are all the company's own design enabled by the advanced capability of its own machinery.

"All guttering, flashing, walling, rolled barges and the huge ridge vent are our own design which allows an amazing amount of natural light and ventilation for a very comfortable environment to do business," he said.

"We only use genuine BlueScope product, primarily 0.55mm XRW products, but all thicknesses are quite popular with our customers so are kept in stock.

"We do have an extensive stock of all the standard range of COLORBOND® and all sizes of the other BlueScope flat steel products as well as stainless steel, aluminium and copper. We also keep various secondary colours as well as speciality materials."

He said that the business owner determined that a custom-built facility was the best option to fulfil its diverse requirements.

"Continued strong growth of the business over the years and our specialist manufacturing nature has led to the requirement for larger premises," Mr Kahl said.

"As a leader in our field we have a close partnership with our customers and understand their specific requirements and know that timing is everything as custom manufactured products are usually required within extremely tight time frames."

He said to accommodate that, it has amassed a large inventory of materials along with a fleet of its own trucks to meet demand and the new facility is needed to meet that growing scope and scale.

Deft design has allowed them to optimise space to suit their day-to-day operational needs.

"The facility will allow us to better manage manufacturing and loading of these important deliveries at all hours of the night, regardless of adverse weather conditions and with the highest levels of safety and efficiency," he said.

"We will have slightly more room but it is a much better layout for us with more roller door access, a large awning and a lot more hardstand areas."

All the structural sections of the new building were supplied by ASI fabricator Idec Solutions which as one of the first members to become certified to the new National Structural Steelwork Compliance Scheme (NSSCS) has preference for steel made to Australian standards.

"We got on board with Idec due to their reputation of being a highly reputable organisation. They have been great and all their people involved in the different stages have continued to follow up with us to make sure we are satisfied," Mr Kahl said.

General Manager – Sales with ideo, **Robert Perks** said the company was recommended to F & M due to ideo's reputation as a reliable design and construct company in South East Queensland.

"What appealed to F & M was our in-house capability including, design, engineering, fabrication and construction. This ensured the project brief, budget and deliverables were always going to be met," he said.

"Working with a client who is passionate about their organisation ensured the project deliverables were clear and defined from our initial meeting. They understand construction restraints when coming to methodology, products and programming.

"Working with an industry colleague like F & M who manufactures a lot of great products enabled us to design most of the project to utilise their own products including the custom-designed ridge vent, stainless steel gutters and downpipes, flashing and speciality sheeting."

