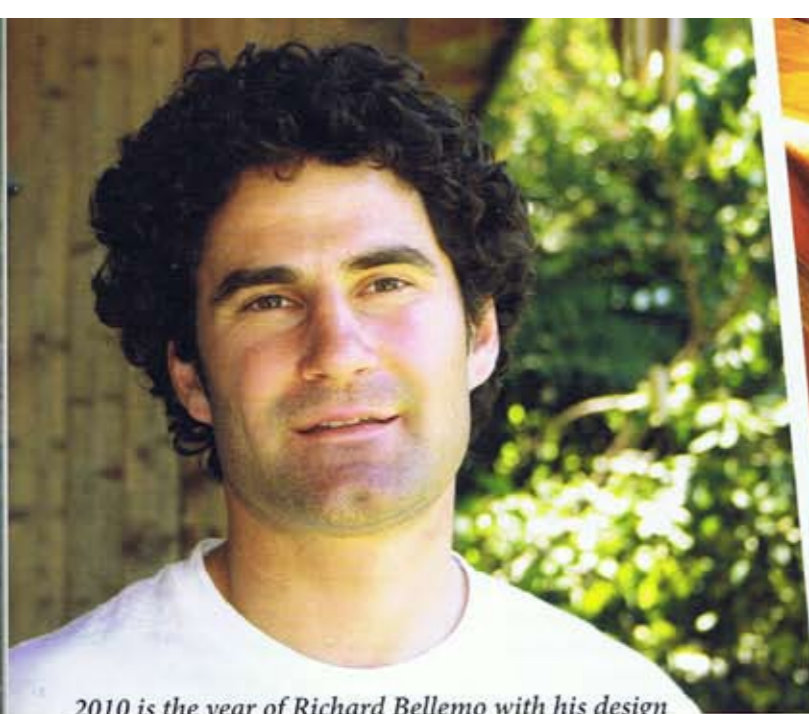



2010
Victorian
Landscape
Awards

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2010 is the year of Richard Bellemo with his design and construction business RB Landscapes, taking out a total of six Victorian Landscape Awards including Landscape of the Year, his Deepdene project the big winner capturing four awards. His success is testament to all landscapers just starting out that the dream is really possible.

Richard is a relative new comer to landscaping, starting his business in 2003 after completing a diploma in natural resource management and discovering a passion for landscape. On completion of his diploma he gained work as a landscape labourer and over a period of two years worked hard to learn the trade from his employer. He then enrolled part time in a diploma of horticulture whilst working for himself. Having a natural creative flair and growing up in an artistic family, problem solving and curiosity comes easily, and these attributes have been important in understanding how Richard works. He loves putting things together, he loves designing and is passionate about the environment but he also loves people and has found landscaping brings together all of these passions.

Richard Bellemo's work is distinctive. He is not afraid to experiment and draws inspiration from people, cultures and nature. He and his wife Nina travel extensively, with many of his ideas gathered from these trips. The slate shingled roof featured in the Deepdene project was an idea he got from Europe, the natural water feature of his Templestowe project from his home in the Dandenongs and his love of timber and construction garnered from his architect father. He also loves sculpture and his landscapes often feature steel screens and objects, an example of which is the water feature that won Feature in the Landscape in 2009. Or the corten steel structures that featured in his cacti garden in Wheelers Hill that won a residential construction award in 2008.

RB Landscapes runs like many new landscape businesses. Apart from Richard, there are two apprentices and Nina does the books, the base of the operation runs from home with very few overheads. To undertake large projects Richard draws upon a swag of like-minded friends and family who bring an array of talents and working to his exacting standards. Richard admits he is a perfectionist and many of his projects may take longer than they should and probably should cost more than he charges, but essentially he does this because he loves it and his landscape projects feed his creative soul. They will not make him rich but they do make him happy.

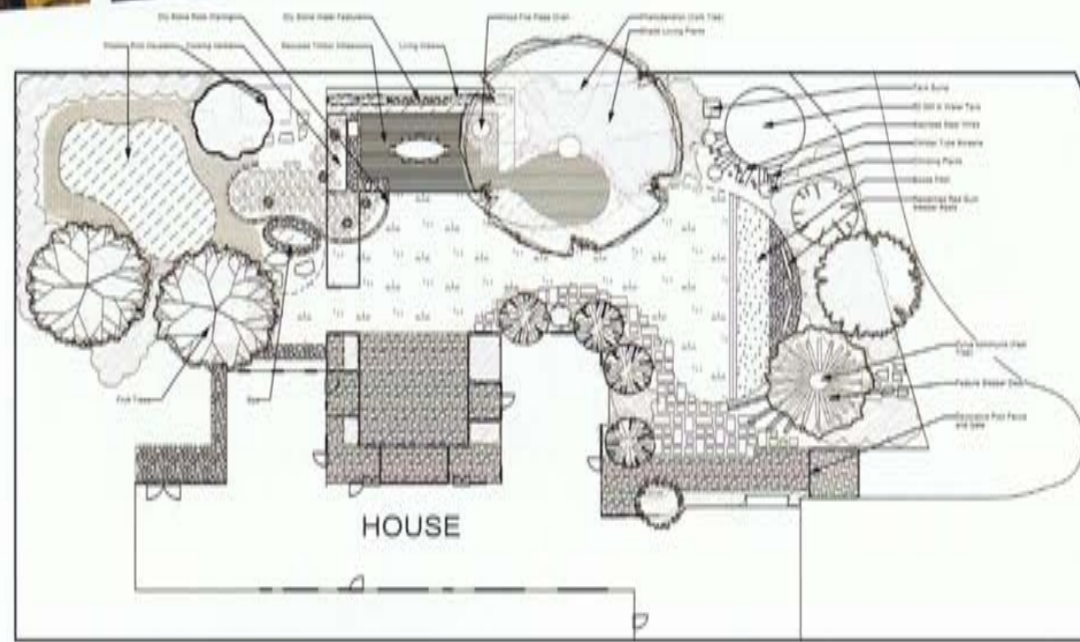
Richard's goal is to only build his designs and he has been working towards becoming established enough to achieve this. He credits the Victorian Landscape Awards and participating in the bi-annual Garden Design Fest as the two best things he has done. Both his Deepdene and Ivanhoe clients met him and commissioned projects at the last Garden Design Fest with more work to follow. With his success at this year's awards and another Garden Design Fest open weekend in November one can only image that Richard's work schedule is looking rosy.

Richard Bellemo's philosophy is to be true to self, never be afraid of hard work, be generous of spirit and aim to impress. His award winning projects reflect this philosophy.

The Deepdene project will be open to the public as part of the Garden Design Fest November 13 and 14 at 2 Barnsbury Court Deepdene from 10am to 4.30pm each day.



landscape of the year
rb landscapes
 deepdene project
 2010 Victorian Landscape Awards



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judges' comments

This standout project exemplifies all that a professional landscape should, beautifully designed, innovative and creative, exceptionally well constructed and environmentally sustainable. Its understated appearance suggests only happy days in the garden.

photographer
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