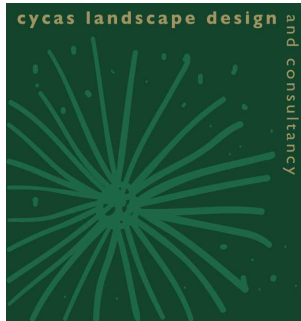


# mark browning

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I have been operating my own landscape business for 22 years, providing both landscape design and landscape construction services, initially under the name 'Mark Browning Landscape Construction'. In 2003 the decision was made to focus on design and project management and **cycas** was born.

Under the name **cycas**, I provide landscape design and consultancy services catering for all styles of landscapes, while specializing in modern contemporary landscape designs. My design philosophy is centred on the objective of providing high quality computer generated landscape designs and documentation with an emphasis on natural materials and sustainable planting. Bluestone and granite are preferred hard landscape materials over concrete and ceramic pavers. Plants offering foliage qualities are generally preferred to those that rely on flowering for their beauty. I also find foliage plants are more drought tolerant and require less maintenance.

I enjoy pursuing different approaches to mulching and garden aesthetics with gravel and stone treatments a feature of my completed designs.

I am passionate about challenging traditional methodology and often use walling materials on the ground and paving material on vertical surfaces. I love to demonstrate the versatility of materials. I love steel and glass, loathe chunky pinebark, and adore succulents and cacti.

Over recent years I have aligned myself with like minded architects and builders such as Inform Design and Construction, Saaj Design and Pleysier Perkins. Together with these companies my gardens have featured award winning projects including "Best Custom House between \$350,000 and \$500,000" in 2002, "House of the Year" in the 2003 National HIA Awards, as well as "Best Custom House over \$1,000,000" and "Overall Best Custom House" in the 2005 Victorian HIA Awards.

Independently **cycas** has exhibited at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show three times and has won an award with each Show Garden.

In 2003 I designed and constructed a contemporary arid garden feature to illustrate the potential beauty of the dry Australian summer. This was awarded a Show Garden Silver Medal.

My "Density" exhibit in 2004 continued the use of natural products and earned The Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria "W. A. Comeadow Gold Award for Design Excellence", as well as a Show Garden Silver Medal.

In 2005 I presented an outdoor room roofed with steel and glass, floored with granite and featuring masses of foliage plants for spectacular effect. This Show Garden was also awarded a Silver Medal.

**cycas** has already demonstrated a leading role in sustainability and as **cycas** continues into this decade more efforts will be made to further this cause. Drainage runoff and silt collection, grey and rainwater collection and environmental micro climate and temperature controls will all be pursued through sensible and creative landscape practices. It is my ambition to hold **cycas** up as an example of how one consultancy firm can manage environment, landscape and the built world and still satisfy the needs of creativity and economics. Totally integrated design and development with a balanced approach to site coverage, urban density and environmental impact are paramount in my philosophy.

Exhibiting at Chelsea is a dream that all landscape designers share. I have dedicated the past year of my life to ensuring that Fleming's and Trailfinders Australian Garden will be of a Gold Medal standard. This project is a wonderful investment and opportunity to put Australia on the map, to showcase Australian horticulture, lifestyle and tourism to the world.

My design challenges people to look at how they live in our landscapes and how they perceive the environment. I am confident that this design and my experience at Chelsea will aid in my endeavours to expand the awareness of the environmental issues that are so close to my heart.

For me it is also a once in a lifetime chance to collaborate with some of Australia's leading companies and some wonderfully skilled trades people. The industry leading support that Fleming's Nurseries have once again added to the Chelsea experience is phenomenal and absolutely critical to the success of Australian representation at Chelsea. Companies such as Bamstone, and their distributors KHD, Gardens at Night, VanSchaik's BioGro, Australbricks and Urbanstone have also been magnificent in their support. The enthusiasm and professionalism of the crew from Kiama Landscapes and Paving, who will be responsible for bringing my design to life, will certainly be the envy of all other designers at Chelsea.