



# RYMILL

COONAWARRA

## GEOFFREY WOODFALL

Geoffrey Woodfall has conducted a distinguished architectural practice in Melbourne for many years, having won citations and awards of merit in both Victoria and South Australia since 1963.

His design philosophy has been moulded by diverse influences, from the architecture of thirteenth century French Gothic cathedrals to the works of the world renowned English architects Sir Norman Foster (Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank), and Sir Richard Rogers (Pompidou Centre and Lloyds of London), as well as the great American, Frank Lloyd Wright (Guggenheim Museum, NY and Fallingwater, Pa). All consistently exposed the structural fabric of their buildings, and this is reflected in Woodfall's contemporary, Australian design for the Rymill Coonawarra Winery.

His initial brief was to protect the winemakers and their equipment from Coonawarra's summer sun and winter rain. This he accomplished with the protective, gable shaped roofs which dominate the building, and give the appearance of hovering above the well-insulated walls.

Regional building materials have been used extensively, with the external and some of the internal walls being formed of Mount Gambier limestone, and the remainder of locally grown and milled radiata pine.

In designing the intricate steelwork for the thirteen metre high building, Woodfall worked in close association with his long-term colleague and engineer Donald Breedon, who has in the past provided the structural design for all of his award winning projects.

As visitors entering the winery will appreciate, the impressive, brightly painted structural columns stand free of the surrounding walls, and support the clear-span roof, the height of which is determined by the dimensions of the winemaking equipment housed inside.

This equipment is readily visible, either through large glass windows or from viewing balconies, where the winemaking sequence may be explained and interpreted.

Commencing with the grapes, which are harvested from our surrounding vineyards, their flow can be followed through the various stages within the winery itself, until they eventually emerge in the tasting area as finished wines which are available for appreciation and sale.

Ten years after the completion of the Rymill Coonawarra winery, we were pleased to learn that Mitchell Beazley had rated us as one of the top 80 wineries in the world in its book *Wineries with Style*.

