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PEACE OF LAND

Once the domain of doe-eyed dairy cows, Ross Farm is an intuitively designed retreat that stays true to its agricultural origins



Bench warmer Local cypress timber was used to create the furniture throughout the three Ross Farm dwellings. “There’s a common design language that flows through them, which is both raw through the use of natural materials and refined with a utilitarian and minimal aesthetic,” says interior designer Andrea Moore, who worked on this project with her family. In the Barn accommodation, light fixtures are made from brass pipes, walls are clad in OSB engineered wood and curtains soften the scheme. **Home country** The Barn (opposite) retains its original footprint, but had to be rebuilt to meet regulations. “We lifted the roof to allow for a mezzanine and to capture the northern light and views of the hills,” Andrea explains. →



Pure palette The Barn's material palette was inspired by the nearby Wilsons Promontory National Park, which is known for its unique granite rock formations and the ever-changing colours of its landscape. In the kitchen, pink granite is paired with brass. This pink granite also makes a floor-to-ceiling statement in the bathroom, which was designed to meet accessibility standards. All of the property's kitchens are equipped with everything guests need to cook up a feast, and come with pantry and breakfast staples as well as a coffee machine. **Light bulb moment** "The way the morning light streams into the space through the glazed facade is really lovely," Andrea says of the Barn's light and lofty aesthetic. The furniture, lamps (opposite) and even the door hardware were custom-made where possible and store-bought materials were often cleverly repurposed. →

“We want guests to slow down and take in the atmosphere, to notice the smaller details of the space and enjoy simple daily rituals...”



ON AN OLD DAIRY FARM where coastal bushland meets meandering waterways and magical fern gullies, you'll find Ross Farm. Twenty years ago, tourists would have passed right by the property, its three dilapidated dwellings buckling under the weight of age and abandonment. But today, visitors come to this pastoral parcel of land to gather with friends and family and escape the everyday. The restoration of Ross Farm was a family affair – it was owner Lindsay Moore's idea to convert the disused buildings into guest accommodation, and it was his daughter Andrea's interior design background that turned his epiphany into a project. "It was a labour of love and indeed a larger project than first realised," Andrea recalls. Naturally, Andrea was responsible for designing the three dwellings while her dad, who she describes as a "talented craftsman and maker", worked with a "small bunch of local builders and tradespeople" to bring the family's vision to life.

Located on the outskirts of Meeniyan, a quiet town in Victoria's South Gippsland, Ross Farm is a modern manifestation of the area's extensive ecosystems and rich farming history. "South Gippsland is dairy country and is known for its green rolling hills and pristine landscapes and beaches," Andrea tells. Inevitably, the environment informed her design brief, which was to create "a truly unique accommodation experience honouring the agricultural architecture the region is known for, →



Heart of steel In the Barn, a rusted steel spiral staircase connects the wheelchair-accessible ground floor to a mezzanine while anchoring the double-height volume, which Andrea says creates “a great sense of spaciousness”. To keep the place warm on cold nights, the Barn was insulated and re-clad with recycled tin sheets, and features a double-glazed glass facade. **Intimate experience** In the Barn’s accessible bathroom (opposite), a Japanese timber bath and beautiful brass hardware beckon guests. **Rural rituals** Come evening, guests gather around the communal fire pit (opposite). The South Gippsland region sits at the southernmost point of Australia’s mainland and is a must-visit for nature lovers and keen bush walkers.

need to know

How much? The Cabin starts from \$250 per night, the Barn starts from \$375 per night and the Dairy starts from \$490 per night. Guests can also book two or all three accommodations and there is a minimum two-night stay*.

How to get there Ross Farm is near Meeniyah in South Gippsland, Victoria, about a two-hour drive from Melbourne. Travel by car is recommended as there is very little public transport, and there is room for cars to park on the property.

Good to know Meeniyah is a 10-minute walk from the farm and is a great place to enjoy brunch, lunch or dinner. The region is home to picturesque lookouts, nature walks, beaches, boat tours and a national park, and while it’s beautiful year round, it’s best to pack for all seasons as the weather can be unpredictable. The Barn accommodation ground floor is wheelchair accessible.

Website Rossfarm.com.au; [@rossfarm_](https://www.instagram.com/rossfarm_); [@studiomoore](https://www.instagram.com/studiomoore)

merged with beautiful yet functional interior design". The team designed and handcrafted as much as they could with local materials and their combined skill sets, and Andrea says this resourceful approach encouraged her to apply quite humble or ordinary materials in experimental ways. For example, the decision to use naturally beautiful surfaces replaced the need for paint, kitchens were designed using floor pavers, basins are constructed out of concrete pipes and the light fittings are made from repurposed brass pipes. Then there's the furniture and cabinetry, all of which was created specifically for each space, and because many of these details were resolved with the craftsmen along the way, the accommodation feels truly authentic and visibly soulful. Ross Farm is made up of three separate guest dwellings. The one-bedroom Cabin opened in early 2018 and in late 2019 the three-bedroom Dairy and two-bedroom Barn were added to the offering. While each has its own distinct aesthetic, a raw and restrained palette flows from one to the next. So too does the physical flow between each shelter – the layout strategically provides private outlooks and allows for outdoor showers, but should a large family or groups of friends book more than one building, they all work together as a collective. It's an idyllic destination for retreats and gatherings – after a day of sightseeing or hiking through nearby Wilsons Promontory National Park, guests can unwind in a big bathtub, cook up a barbecue, watch the sunset and settle around a wood fire. "We want guests to slow down and take in the atmosphere. To notice the smaller details of the space and enjoy simple daily rituals, whether it be lighting a fire, drawing a bath or a shower under the stars and exploring the beautiful landscape at our doorstep," Andrea says. 📍



shop it

Be inspired by the resourceful yet reposeful interiors of Ross Farm.



- 1** 100% linen **flat sheet** in Dove Grey, \$195 for queen, In Bed. **2** Peggy Sue **soap bars**, \$18 each, Marlo Spa. **3** Flaxmill feather fill **cushion** in Chutney, \$129.95, OZ Design Furniture. **4** Concrete **vases**, \$69 for medium and \$74 for tall, Domayne.

Land of nod The Barn sleeps four guests, with a bedroom upstairs and a wheelchair-accessible bedroom downstairs. The simple materials used here put the focus on the views and the building's humble beginnings. **Southern belle** The bedroom and bathroom (opposite) instill quietude. Curtains temper the sunlight; the basin is made from a concrete agricultural pipe.