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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶: E04D 3/363, 3/362, 3/3645	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 97/40243 (43) International Publication Date: 30 October 1997 (30.10.97)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU97/00244 (22) International Filing Date: 21 April 1997 (21.04.97) (30) Priority Data: PN 9409 22 April 1996 (22.04.96) AU (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BHP STEEL (JLA) PTY. LTD. [AU/AU]; 600 Bourke Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000 (AU). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): CAMPBELL, John, Secombe [AU/AU]; 141 Pentecost Avenue, Turramurra, NSW 2074 (AU). (74) Agent: GRIFFITH HACK; G.P.O. Box 4164, Sydney, NSW 2001 (AU).		(81) Designated States: AU, CN, NZ, SG, US, VN. Published <i>With international search report.</i>

(54) Title: CLADDING ELEMENT**(57) Abstract**

Cladding elements having adequate rigidity to limit sagging over a span to acceptable levels when the elements are used to span considerable distances for use in a cladding element assembly, generally comprising a web (1) and longitudinally extending side edges (2, 3), one side edge being provided with an upwardly extending female rib formation (3) and the other side edge being provided with an upwardly extending male rib formation (2) able to enter the female rib formation (3) of another element and when so entered lockably engage the elements side to side characterised in that when so assembled the interengaging rib formations form a closed loop in cross section which can be in the form of an inverted triangle. The loop is closed by retention means to brace against lateral movement of the elements, the retention means is in the form of a tongue (19) and groove (8) formation.

