Case Study 40

Kalyra Aged Care Facility

Belair SA

Kalyra Aged Care Facility

The breathtaking view from the Kalyra Aged Care Facility high in the Adelaide Hills takes the eye across the suburbs to the distant city centre. The site began life in the 1920s as a sanatorium and now carries a retirement village of 76 villas – Kalyra Village – and, most recently, a 92-bed residential aged care facility.

The steep terrain and restricted access were an engineering and logistical challenge. The residential aged care site, adjacent to several original sandstone-and-red-brick buildings, was built up an average of two metres. Steel piles were sunk at three metre spacings and depths of up to five metres. The pile caps act as footing beams that in turn support what is effectively a suspended slab.

The building design is domestic in scale, providing residents with a sense of home. The brickwork colours and textures pick up on the original buildings. "The tonings and colouration blend with the hillside setting, and we were anxious to keep a simple colour palette," explains architect Vin Keneally.

Bands of red brick plinths at the base and first floor levels create a modelling line, accentuating the horizontality. "Designing a two-storey building adjacent to single-storey buildings is always a bit of a challenge visually," Keneally considers.

Phase 2 of the residential aged care facility was completed in August 2004.

(Clockwise from left) The base of red brickwork is capped with plinth bricks, as is the banding at first floor level. The brick colours pick up on the sandstone and red brick of the 1920s sanatorium buildings. The scale, detailing and finishes are residential rather than institutional, in keeping with the context.

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