



## Case Study 42

### **Knox O-Zone**

Wantirna South VIC

**Representing Australia's clay  
brick and paver manufacturers**

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**Client:** AMP Shopping Centres

**Architecture:** Altoon + Porter in conjunction with Hames Sharley

**Construction:** Probuild Constructions (Aust)

**Landscape design:** Tract Consultants

**Landscape construction:** Image Paving (Mornington), Traditional Victorian Paving, The Garden Company

## Knox O-Zone Wantirna South VIC



*(This page)* Clay pavers mask the inevitable spills in food areas and provide a secure, low slip surface under foot.

*(Facing page, from top left)* The warm paver blend creates a casual and friendly environment in the central area, Town Walk. Pedestrian crossing signals are built into bollards. Clay pavers are accented by stone as insets and on the lower reaches of pillars. Casual eateries dot the length of the Walk and the Village Green. Much of the paving is laid in a modified form of stack bond.

After decades of enveloping consumers in a "total shopping experience", shopping centres are now throwing open their portals and discovering the great outdoors.

"I think it's to do with a whole lifestyle change, that shopping is now more than just a retail experience," explains Deiter Lim of planners and landscape architects, Tract Consultants. "It's a lifestyle experience"

The brief was to create a village ambience, reminiscent of that in the nearby Dandenong Ranges and Yarra Valley. "Essentially we were trying to create a main street that was outdoor, yet protected, had a warmth to it, and was part of a contemporary shopping centre."

The Tract design team, led by managing director Rodney Wulff, worked with the architects on the selection of landscape materials "to get that warmth and feeling into the shopping centre, away from the polished terrazzo and stainless steel," says Deiter Lim. "Because we are in an outdoor area, it had to be robust and warm, and



relate to the feeling of the area. The materials chosen needed to be robust, to stand up to the traffic, and be able to take vehicle loads."

Clay pavers are the dominant paving material, accented with stone which also features around pillars. "We went to clay pavers because they are very cost-effective and provided us with a real depth of colour."

The designers blended three paver colours, varying from an ochre red and traditional brick red to a strong blue on a deep red base. "While being very strong, the reds

provide a nice earthy feel. (The blend) also helps with maintenance and cleaning. Spills are less obvious because of the mottled finish of the pavers."

Plantings were chosen from a mixed palette of exotic and native vegetation. Mature mountain ash features in two key areas at opposite ends of Town Walk. The Village Green also has a "dry water course" flanked by ferns and other under-story plantings of green-leaf native grasses.

“Clay pavers ... are very cost-effective and provided us with a real depth of colour.”

## Links

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