



Case Study 36

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

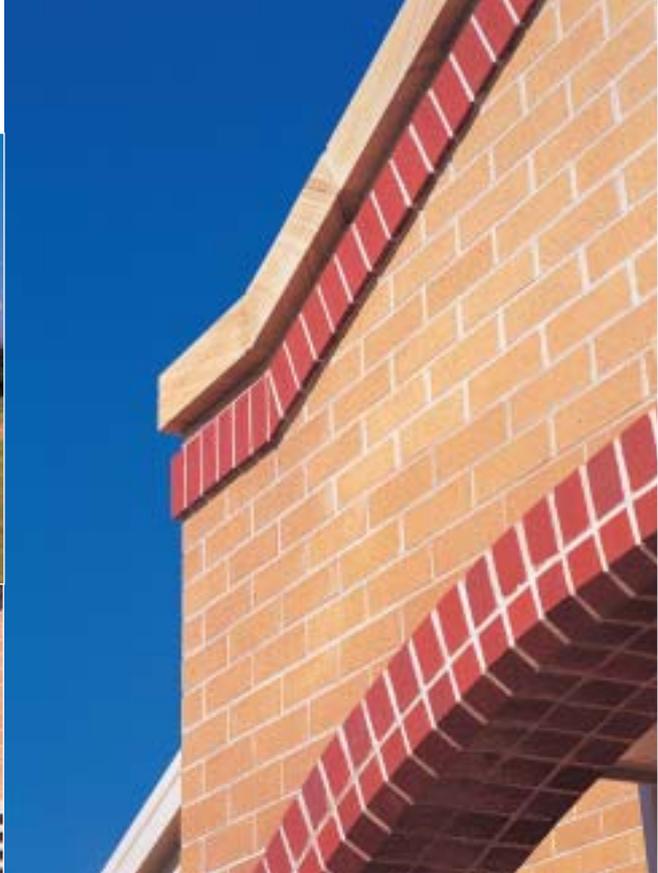
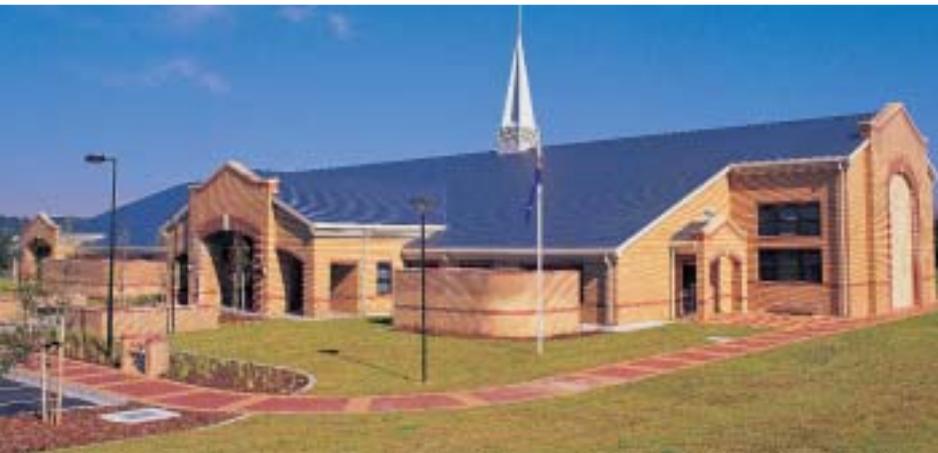
Narre Warren North VIC

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

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“The four elevations are richly

This page, from top:
The large, low-set meeting house sits under a substantial roofline. The worship area is situated behind the massive sandstone panel on the right. Bands of red brickwork outline the panels of grey brick. The brickwork colours are reversed in the clay paving with the recessive wall colour becoming the dominant paving colour.

Facing page:
Multiple-corbelled shallow arches embellish one of the two primary entrances to the meeting house.

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Narre Warren North VIC**

Client: The Church Of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Australian Southern States

Architect: GHD

Builder: ADCO Constructions

Bricklayer: Decca Constructions

Landscape design: Site Landscape Architects, GHD

Paving contractor: Image Paving

Building cost: \$6.2 m plus loose furnishings

Photography by Roger du Buisson

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

The term "ecclesiastical architecture" gives rise to visions of magnificent edifices such as St Peters, Rome, St Sophia, Constantinople and even St Marys, Sydney. Contemporary church design tends to reflect our more pragmatic era.

The Latter-Day Saints Narre Warren Meeting House is less prosaic than most contemporary church buildings, being notable in size and site development and featuring arched and corbelled brickwork with sandstone copings and panels, and an impressive expanse of slate-like roof, topped with an aluminum spire.

The term "meeting house", acknowledges the multiple functionality of this building. As well as a worship area, the building encompasses a complex of meeting rooms and classrooms, office facilities for three Bishops (lay ministers) and the Stake President, family history resources, and a separate baptismal area. At the complex's heart is, surprisingly, a full-size basketball court, that doubles as a function venue and an extension of the worship area.

The low-set 2850 m² building is set on a 2.34 ha corner site, surrounded by large residential blocks and encroaching suburbia. Mounds up to two metres high protect neighbours' privacy. Clay paved paths laid on a flexible base of crushed rock and compacted sand lead to the two major entrances and around the building.

The base design has been progressively adapted from American designs. GHD were commissioned to include some additional features and place the building on the site, allowing for landscaping and services. The four elevations are richly decorated with multiple-corbelled arches and bands of red soldier bricks providing a strong contrast with the grey brick walling. The shallow arches are finished with inverted red sill bricks.

The choice of low-maintenance materials such as clay bricks and pavers was a conscious intent of the client who has an expectation of 200 years life for this building.

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