



Case Study 49

St Stephens School

Carramar WA

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Client: St Stephens School

Landscape designer: Edgar Idle Wade Architects

Builder: Universal Constructions

Paving contractor: Boskovski Paving Contractors

“Part of the



challenge was ensuring access to all
the buildings as they step across the site”

St Stephens School, Carramar WA

St Stephens Carramar is the second campus of a Uniting Church school that has “grown very quickly and been quite a success story,” according to Philip Idle of Edgar Idle Wade Architects. EIW is responsible for the building and landscape design of all five stages of this project. The campus offers K through 12 tuition to students from Perth’s burgeoning northern suburbs.

The single-storey buildings are clustered to the east of the undulating 8 ha site, with two playing fields to the west. “It has a fair fall across the site,” Idle explains. Part of the challenge was ensuring access to all the buildings as they step across the site linked by a series of clay paved paths. “There are quite a lot of ramps but we have avoided conspicuous disabled ramps.”

The school chose the pavers: “It’s something they felt very strongly about.” The body of highly-variegated clay pavers is laid in a bed of compacted sand. The light loadings and well-drained sandy soil do not require the use of a crushed rock base course, a common Western Australian practice.

Header courses of darker red clay pavers laid in a mortar bed act as a restraint as well as defining the pavement edge. Transverse bands of red pavers also break down the pavement mass.

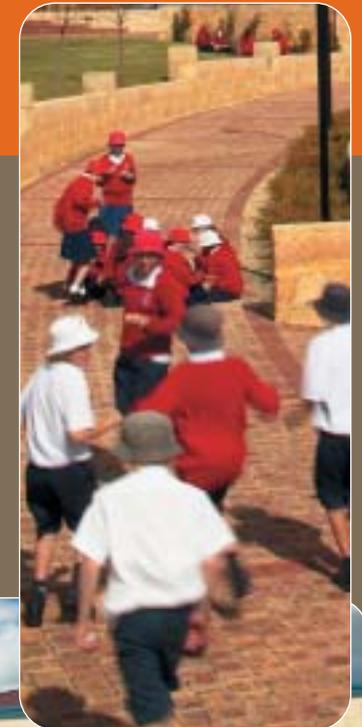
An imposing set of steps leads from the playing fields to the Collinson Library from which there are commanding views towards Lake Joondalup. The steps are nosed with the red pavers used in the path header courses. The broad step bodies – another area for informal congregation and seating – are infilled with the variegated clay pavers.

Following stage four the school identified the need for several new minor pathways. Who better to construct these than the students, under the supervision of the school’s design and technology staff. Students leveled the subgrade, placed and compacted the sand bed, cut and laid pavers, and placed concrete haunching! With this level of enthusiasm and commitment, it’s little wonder the school is prospering.

Links

www.eiwarch.com.au

www.ststephens.wa.gov.au



(Clockwise from right of facing page) The medium-format clay pavers are flanked and banded with contrasting red pavers. A network of paths stretches seamlessly across the campus, linking buildings on the undulating site. The broad steps allow informal congregation and seating and level the approach to the library.

Photography by Acorn Photo Agency

