

Issue.03

Epitome

THE·BENSON
TOORAK

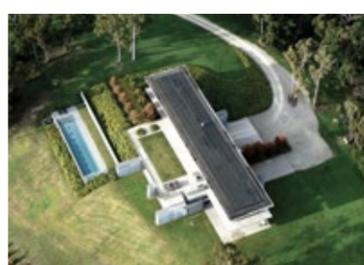
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The Benson's interior and landscape designers reveal what inspired their thinking.



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The Benson emerges on the Toorak Road streetscape.

Our March construction update.

The builders, Buxton Construction, have been blessed with ideal weather in recent times and have been able to progress steadily with the major concrete pours for the basement and ground floor areas. The grandeur of The Benson is beginning to take shape on the Toorak Road streetscape. We look forward to seeing The Benson rise quickly to its full height over the next few months.

As with any such project, The Benson is an evolving entity. Recent modifications to The Benson's interior plans include the update of all windows to Tilt and Turn Windows for increased ventilation, hygiene and security, and external remote-controlled motorised vertical blinds will be installed on west-facing windows for a bit of added protection from the elements.

Lead architect Simon Hanger from Demaine Partnership, gave an update of progress at a recent Friends of The Benson event hosted at The Kooyong Tennis Club.

The display suite was relocated in late December, and can now be accessed through the St Peter's Parish courtyard.



Top left: Jill Shirley and Simon Hanger at recent Friends of The Benson event
Top right & bottom: Buxton Construction

01



Some recent Tract projects
Top: Medhurst Vineyard
Bottom: Private Residence Toorak

Meet the landscape architects.

We speak to Mike Stokes of Tract, the landscape architects responsible for giving our gardens an "established" feel.

How has your design addressed the theme and character of The Benson and the adjoining St Peter's Parish Toorak?

Our take on the architectural design could be described as contemporary reflections on a period style. As well as the beautiful stone, St Peter's Parish church provides a strong, timeless presence. Both it, and The Benson, exist in a leafy neighbourhood of period homes with generous mature gardens and large trees – both deciduous and native. Our design approach works on two levels. Firstly, in terms of local context, to harmonise the existing and proposed buildings with a landscape overlay sensitive to the neighbourhood character, including larger trees and the grassed areas often associated with churches. And secondly, to meet the needs of residents.

What would you say are the biggest considerations and challenges for projects like this?

The key consideration is to really understand the end user's needs, expectations and sensitivities. The facility must exude an address of the highest quality and be such that residents are proud to say they live here and are keen to invite visitors to "show off" their new lifestyle investment.

And the landscaping's role in this?

As many residents would be downsizing from garden lots in the leafier suburbs, they appreciate and expect well designed, mature and maintained gardens and external spaces. To this end, the gardens must present as generous, and well advanced, at opening and be then beautifully maintained. To meet, or even exceed, quality "resort" standards.

Do you have any recommendations to residents for making the most of their available outdoors living spaces?

Simply relax and enjoy the gardens – particularly the regular ongoing maintenance, as it's now the responsibility of others!

02

To the ballet or the MCG?

That is the question.

Judging by those who've already chosen The Benson as their future home, we envisage many residents will be leading a very active social life. And have very eclectic tastes.

From football, or an event at the MCG; to the opera or ballet; or dining in Melbourne's finest restaurants – living in Toorak really is absolutely ideal given what our residents wish to enjoy.

For many, the starting out point of their social adventures will be Club Ebsworth, the social heart of The Benson (think a genteel bar in a boutique hotel, or maybe a private club in New York or London). It's a place to relax, entertain guests, have a cup of tea or coffee (or something a little stronger perhaps) and cosy up to the fireplace on a winter's evening. Club Ebsworth is the venue to meet friends and fellow residents before heading off to whatever activity takes your fancy.

Club Ebsworth has been designed to complement the tastes of The Benson community. It will also be the home of our Sommeliers Club, the wine club to be set up for the exclusive use by residents.

But even the most socially active occasionally like to enjoy a quiet night in. Right next door to the Club is the elegant dining room. On selected nights, our chef would be delighted to prepare something special for you.

We think, for The Benson residents, "Meet you in the Club" will become a very familiar phrase.



Bottom left: Club Ebsworth



Top: Living room

Bottom: Communal dining room

Meet the interior design team.

We speak to Sarah Kirby and Michael Jeffreson of the award-winning Demaine Partnership.

What was the inspiration behind your styling decisions for The Benson?

The unique aspect of The Benson is the way in which it fits into its surroundings. It's a kind of collegiate relationship between the church, the public spaces, the residences and the gardens, and we wanted to extend that feeling of integration to the interiors.

Tell us a little bit about the floor plans

The heart of the residences are the living rooms, and particularly the way in which they respond to the seasons. The outlook to generous indoor spaces and gardens makes these very comfortable spaces in summer and spring. And in winter the warm décor and the fireplaces make the apartments very pleasant to live in.

The shared spaces within The Benson are essential for building a sense of community; what are the most important aspects of these spaces from your perspective?

We wanted these spaces to be more like the luxury foyer of a boutique upmarket hotel. They're spaces that feel more like an enlargement of your living room and that suits the boutique quality of The Benson. So, you could treat these spaces as your front room, a place to entertain on a larger scale than is typically in an apartment.

For residents downsizing how do you accommodate both sentimentality and style?

Good design allows people to really personalise the place that they occupy with the things that they value, and in doing so, our residents can express their personal style. Our Autumn and Spring colourways provide an adaptable palette for personalisation. In styling your apartment, we encourage residents to not lose sight of the things that are valuable and meaningful to them.



Local business profile: Toorak Travel.

For when you decide to “lock up and leave.”

As much as we know you’re going to love living at The Benson, many of you are going to want to leave it from time to time. To travel, of course. As a service to residents, we looked around the area for a travel consultant who would understand our resident’s travel requirements. We didn’t have to look far. A stroll into The Village revealed Toorak Travel.

We recently spoke with the Director, Julie Poumés. Julie and her staff are all very experienced, seasoned travellers. She is justifiably proud of the fact that a large portion of her business is for repeat and referred customers. In fact, she’s even organised cruising holidays for three generations of the same family. And many of her current clients are the grandchildren of people whose holiday travel plans she’s been handling for over 40 years.

“It’s all about service and knowledge,” Julie said. Despite competition from the internet, her business thrives due to the service she and her staff delivers to clients. They take the time to understand preferences and can make recommendations that no amount of Googling will ever unearth. “Thanks for finding that gem for us!” is the kind of appreciative comment she often gets from returning travellers.

Julie has also offered to organise some film and information nights for us. We look forward to that.

Personal service is something we thoroughly understand. Our experienced sales team of Anne Kemp, Tracey Forbes and John Prowse, would be pleased to welcome you and discuss options for living at The Benson in Toorak. Tracey commented: “The deciding factors for purchasers is that it is 100% owner occupied with like-minded people of a similar age, values and ambitions for the future. Proximity to Toorak Village and it’s shopping, dining, and services like that of Toorak Travel, is also a huge drawcard.”

Pictured:
Travel advice, culinary delights and some good reads – all available in The Village



**To make a personal appointment,
call 1300 28 88 66**

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