



An architectural marker for Adelaide's North

Northern Adelaide is experiencing a mini-construction boom, with \$400 million of medium-size construction projects in the pipeline. Here, a new retail development in Salisbury Plains is providing a much-needed aesthetic and economic boost to what has predominately been an industrial area. The \$16 million Saints Road Shopping Centre project has injected a new lease of life into the area with a premium retail and lifestyle destination.

Design intent

Set back from Main North Road and Saints Road, the building comprises a single storey scheme with a high-grade supermarket and specialty shops. Internally, the mall spaces feature high ceilings that have allowance for natural light to filter through. Externally, the building's façade has been layered and balanced using geometric, articulated forms and materials that have been elegantly proportioned to deliver a stylish modern building.

Director and Owner of Evo Arc, Barry Santry, says the design brief was to provide a contemporary and sophisticated neighbourhood shopping centre.

"The bold contemporary design of the centre will act as a 'gateway' and an identifiable architectural marker for Salisbury Plain, providing a value offer and a convenient customer-focused shopping experience," Mr Santry details.

Unique forms and geometry with glass reinforced concrete

Precast concrete that is reinforced using glass fibres – commonly known as glass reinforced concrete (GRC) – offers a myriad of possibilities. For this project, the architect has taken advantage of the material's flexibility by playing with forms and geometry for the building's façade.

Approximately 40 GRC wall panels were manufactured and installed by National Precast member, Asurco Contracting. As one of the country's leading GRC suppliers, the company manufactures and installs GRC for projects all around Australia from its Adelaide factory.

Precast manufacturer

Asurco Contracting

Builder

Sarah Constructions

Engineer

CPR Consulting Engineers

Client

83 Saints Road Nominees

Architect

Eco Arc

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The unique geometry and 3D nature of the shopping centre's façade posed challenges during installation. Accurate alignment was critical to achieve the desired design result. Overcoming the alignment difficulties, which arose from a combination of recessed and protruding panels, hinged on an experienced precast installer. Asurco was up to the task, and the resulting façade is a testament to the company's experience.

Creating a vibrant city

The Saints Road Shopping Centre will play a significant role in the shape and success of the city's commitment to creating a sustainable, prosperous and liveable city, says a City of Salisbury spokesperson. "Medium-scale investment and projects continue to be the unsung hero in Salisbury with thousands of construction jobs and ongoing jobs set to be created in 2019 through unprecedented investment," the spokesperson says.

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