

VISION

ISSUE 43

THE NEW
BLOCK

THE BLOCK
2017 ELSTERNWICK
MELBOURNE

Viridian
we ♥ glass

CONTENTS

THE BLOCK 2017

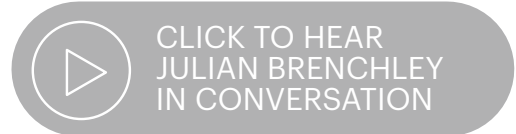
Since bursting onto the television scene in 2003, The Block has reigned supreme in the television ratings game. Its latest 2017 series set in Melbourne's leafy, upmarket Elsternwick has proven another triumph for the Nine Network with almost two million viewers on opening night and a cult following other networks dream about.

The Block's 'formula' for such a runaway success has been imitated but never bettered. And the producers Julian Cress and David Barbour keep fine-tuning their property selection and designs that are always aspirational for their audience.

With Viridian as long-term sponsor and, more recently, CSR, the program has been able to showcase an array of new technologies and materials for better, more efficient housing. With unique challenges, contestants are called upon to play their part and bring materials and products to life that hopefully prove irresistible come auction day.

Viridian's high performance glass – LightBridge™ – has been instrumental in transforming often dark, difficult spaces into show-stoppers. With its high daylight-transmission and energy management values, the product has proven a brilliant partner for contestants in their quest for comfortable interiors that link effortlessly with the outside.

Design Architect of The Block since its inception, Sydney-based Julian Brenchley has been responsible for site selection and the over-arching architectural integration of each series. Brenchley is also the material man connecting sponsors and seeing contestants' dreams finally realised. He has played a guiding hand in this role for the past 14 years, with the emergence of an Australian style more loft and warehouse than quarter-acre brick veneer.





10
SARAH
& JASON



20
HANNAH
& CLINT



30
GEORGIA
& RONNIE



38
STICKS
& WOMBAT



48
ELYSE
& JOSH

BLOCKBUS



TER



Big budgets, big ideas and big production values all collide on **The Block**. It's the television series where contestants and products are put to the test, and there's the blowtorch of a score-card where 'reveals' can be as searing as they are triumphant. Despite glamour opportunities, contestants have to fashion an array of materials and products on tight budgets and tighter time-frames. For series architect Julian Brenchley, it's a process of bemusement and wonder that has him returning to create bigger, better, more imaginative challenges.

The latest series brings together a collection of five 'misfits', from original Californian Bungalows to mixed up Victorian/Edwardians trucked in from the suburbs and grouped to make a good neighbourhood fit within Elsternwick's largely Edwardian and stately building stock. More importantly, the real architectural challenge wasn't to simply update the old, but add double-storey pavilions to the generous allotments.

How to make this marriage of the old and new convincing and hugely appealing for auction day?

It's a first for **The Block** to buy into a street in this way and create a new row of traditional houses that ostensibly appear to have been part of the street and neighbourhood for the past 90 years or so. It is a bold and big idea that might have flopped, but hasn't.

PROJECT
The Block 2017
Elsternwick, Victoria

ARCHITECT
Julian Brenchley,
Brenchley Architects

BUILDER
Erilyan Projects Pty. Ltd.

**WINDOW MANUFACTURER
& INSTALLER**
Jenmat Building Services

GLASS SUPPLIER
Viridian

PRINCIPAL GLAZING
Viridian LightBridge™
Viridian EnergyTech™ Clear

TEXT, IMAGES & FILM
Peter & Jenny Hyatt

The Block has a history of adapting historic properties, but this hasn't restricted or cramped its style. Within the bounds of countless factory conversions, the producers have managed to inspire a whole generation of home renovators. A key to the show's success isn't merely maintaining the authenticity of the original, but integrating the modern and contemporary with a strong overall design and template for the show's contestants to follow.

Along the way contestants have the opportunity to use many of the best available materials to produce the aspirational and winning design finally decided by the highest auction day price.

This year's theme of the 'industrial look' brought together many of CSR's best products to realise and reveal an expressed palette of materials. With an overall appearance of design restraint, the houses share a family resemblance and rhythm of tradition, solidity and open-plan living and relaxed lifestyle.

One of the highlights in this latest series is the rise of the new pavilions. Vast, west-facing windows to the upstairs master bedrooms and similarly sized ground-floor glazing, create a huge harbour for daylight and breezes. Stackable doors below and operable windows above in Viridian's premium LightBridge™ are a *tour de force* of modernity and flexibility, bridging effortlessly deck and garden.

“One of the highlights in this latest series is the rise of the new pavilions. Vast, west-facing windows to the upstairs master bedrooms and similarly sized ground-floor glazing, create a huge harbour for daylight and breezes.”



Julian Brenchley, Architect, The Block



SARAH & JASON



Master bedroom with west-facing views towards studios/granny-flats.



Right The transition from bungalow front to new rear occurs with louvre windows featuring Viridian EnergyTech™ glazing as operable louvers for fine-pitch control.

Below Wide passageways lead past the louvre windows and through to the expansive pavilions.



Julian Brenchley spoke with Vision's Peter Hyatt about a series where clever technologies, bold materials and contestant ambitions need to fuse into the single brilliant moment to realise art as commerce.

What is the one constant for you about working on The Block?

It's a lot of fun. I love seeing what the contestants do inside the houses, how they interpret the architecture, how they bring another interpretation to it, how they see things compared to how I see them. That's part of the fun of it and life and living. There's a lot of eyes on this so it's intense.

The central idea behind this year's series is an industrial look. Can you elaborate on that?

I'm not one for a style. How I like to interpret these things is how you use materials to create either a look or a form, but it's not a style. In this instance we've used materials to create a look but it's not an intentional style grab. We're looking at something with a deep-set integrity and a very strong, honest materiality.



CLICK TO HEAR
JULIAN BRENCHLEY
IN CONVERSATION

Stackable doors are repeated throughout all five houses and provide identical flexibility.



“There’s double brick, exposed metal, Elemental roof tiles and LightBridge™ – all these things come together as a holistic design approach.”

JULIAN BRENCHLEY, ARCHITECT



You have always placed a great emphasis on orchestrating materials specific for purpose.

If we're talking about materiality, we're talking about lifestyle and sustainability, all of these things are small parts of a very big picture in any built form. I look at it from the point of view of fundamental choices along the way. It's not something I add at the back end of the project and say 'how clever was I. It's suddenly Green.' That's not the case and it's not going to work out that way. There's double brick, exposed metal, Elemental roof tiles and LightBridge™ – all these things come together as a holistic design approach.

“With an overall appearance of design restraint, the houses share a family resemblance and rhythm of tradition, solidity and open-plan living and relaxed lifestyle.”

VISION





Living/lounge-rooms incorporate multiple daylight options including the sizeable glazing with LightBridge™ to the louvre windows.





HANNAH & CLINT





“It is a lot of trouble to work on the requirements and performance of glass. We’ve gone to Viridian glass – tried and true – we’ve used it on The Block before and it’s been a great success.”

JULIAN BRENCHLEY, ARCHITECT



Above Main entrance with bedrooms, bathrooms incorporated in a semi open-plan arrangement.

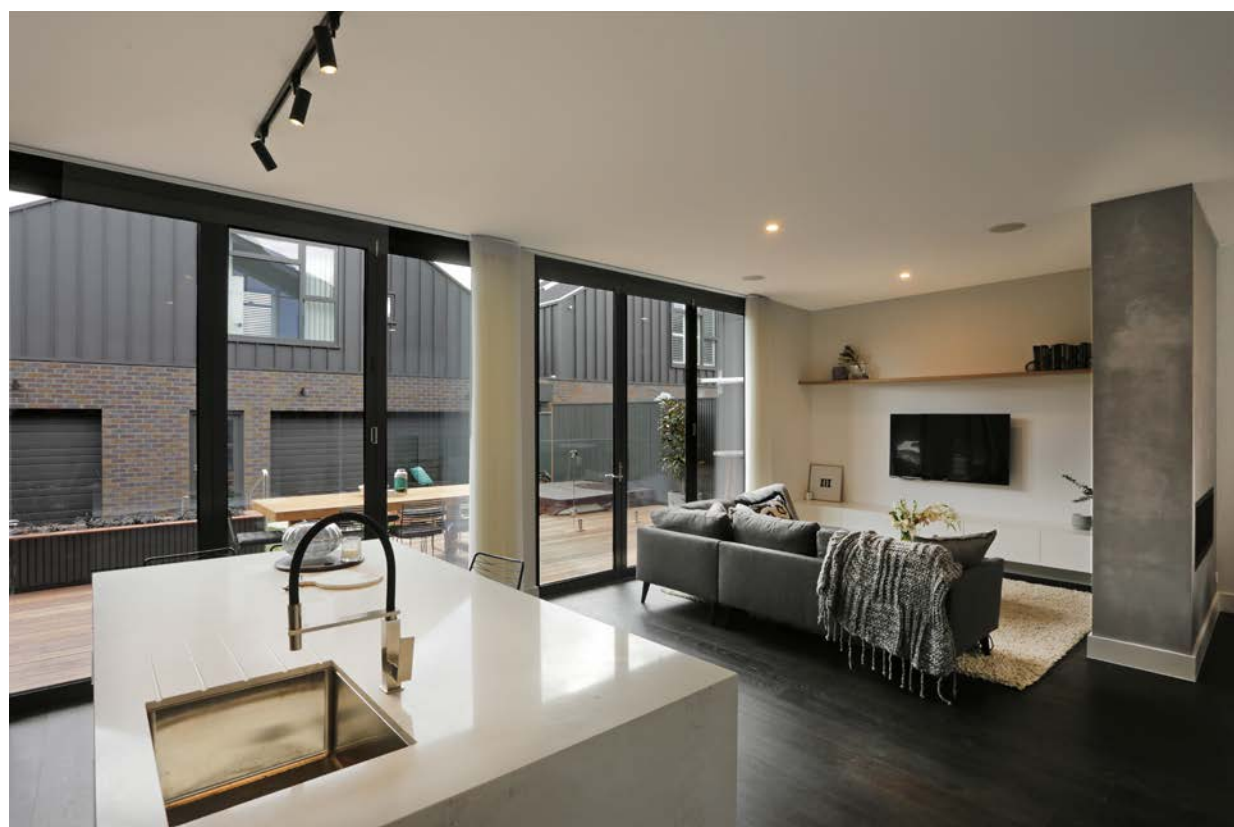
Left The glazed node between old and modern.

There is quite a history on The Block with Viridian.

It is a lot of trouble to work on the requirements and performance of glass. We've gone to Viridian glass – tried and true – we've used it on The Block before and it's been a great success. Thanks to the louvres windows for example, we've recreated an old house and created a lovely new pavilion. This glass is the EnergyTech™ Low-E glass that's absolutely fantastic in its high performance. It's just a beautiful product and we'll be using it time and time again.

LightBridge™ is one of those products you have used to great effect.

In The Block we're all about challenges and it's challenges for the contestants and challenges for the products. We go to Viridian because they can step up to the mark. LightBridge™ is one of their premium products and we've used that specifically in the new pavilions just to get the solar performance and heat coefficient right. It's a great product and we'll use it again and again.



Glass is often considered as a one-type fits-all material when in reality there is a broad performance spectrum not always visible to the naked eye.

Glass is a thing of beauty but it's also highly transparent. You can easily take the glass enclosure for granted. What's there is a highly technical piece of building fabric. It's like anything else in a building that forms part of the composition and any one of those can be completely transparent and of course it's no joke that glass is transparent but the idea that it's there and the technology and the performance that it lends the building is second to none.





The industrial look with a touch of 'svelte moderne'.

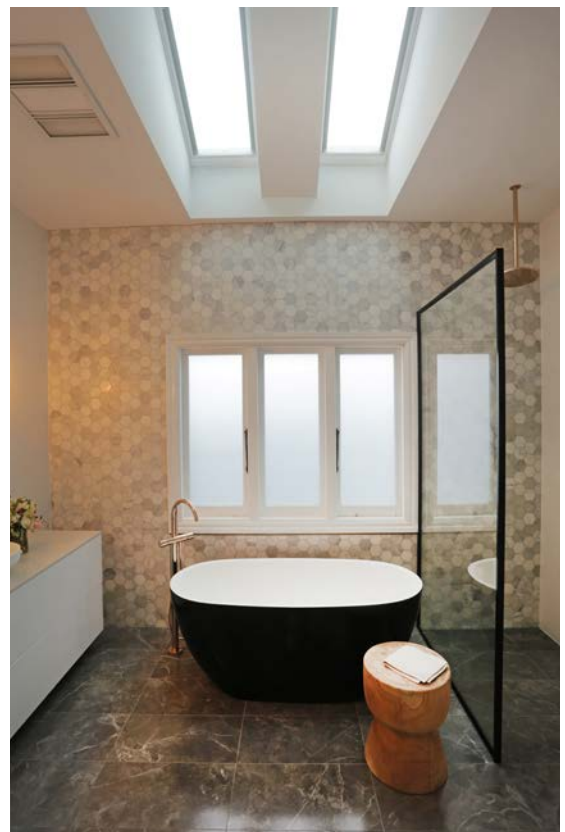




Hannah and Clint's
granny flat/studio.

“In this instance we’ve used materials to create a look but it’s not an intentional style grab. We’re looking at something with a deep-set integrity and a very strong, honest materiality.”

JULIAN BRENCHLEY, ARCHITECT







GEORGIA
& RONNIE



Full-height double-glazed Viridian doors and windows help distil the quintessential indoor/outdoor lifestyle of this season's The Block.



What role do you give glass as part of your strategy to create space, form and place of its time?

You'll notice in this series of The Block we have an old house, with louvre windows that are a transition zone to a new contemporary build at the back. You'll see in the old houses, we are dealing with small rooms and windows from a heritage point of view. We love the character but let's look at the transition and how we're transitioning to a new modern space and what that space means for contemporary living. It's visibility on the outside and the visibility of outside being able to look in, but also to be highly efficient in doing so. Glass is helping us in that respect in this particular building because we have a high shading coefficient in the glass and we have very little heat loss. These are critical things for Melbourne, critical things to consider in any building project and critical things to ask of any building material and glass can deliver, Viridian can deliver.

How does glass add to the 'wow' factor?

There's a real trend in contemporary architecture towards indoor and outdoor. We hear that so often, but how do you achieve that on the ground? Well, glass is a great leveler in that you can easily see the indoors and outdoors and vice versa. That's a given but the technology and how to achieve that and do that correctly so that you're not compromising the performance of your building... these are critical things. Glass is helping us from a sustainability angle and also a design angle and these are critical things that interweave and go towards creating a fantastic outcome.



“Glass is helping us from a sustainability angle and also a design angle and these are critical things that interweave and go towards creating a fantastic outcome.”

JULIAN BRENCHLEY, ARCHITECT

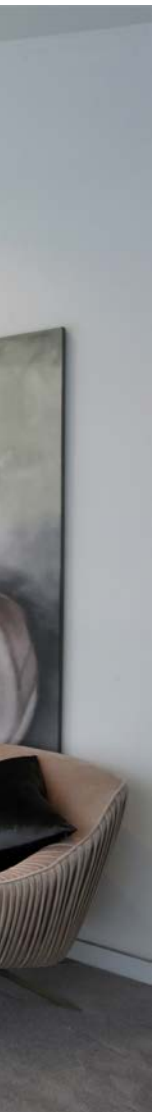






“A key to the show’s success isn’t merely maintaining the authenticity of the original, but integrating the modern and contemporary with a strong overall design and template for the show’s contestants to follow.”

VISION





STICKS & WOMBAT



CSR and Viridian have offered a large support role in this series of The Block. What has this meant to you and contestants?

We're extremely lucky to have along involvement with CSR. We've essentially been able to wrap projects in CSR products. We've got Gyprock, PGH Bricks, Bradford Insulation, Viridian glass and more. It's been a major benefit to us all along. Our time frames are incredibly tight. They're nothing like a normal build, but CSR have been able to perform. The less we can turn on air conditioning because we have a house that's well designed and well built with wonderful products then we have a success story. All of CSR's beautiful products we rely on to create a comfortable, sustainable home. My personal and professional interest is in sustainability and what CSR are doing is creating a thermal performance within a holistic, controlled environment that's very beautiful.





“Stackable doors below and operable windows above in Viridian’s premium LightBridge™ are a tour de force of modernity and flexibility, bridging effortlessly deck and garden.”

VISION







“LightBridge™ is one of [Viridian’s] premium products and we’ve used that specifically in the new pavilions just to get the solar performance and heat coefficient right. It’s a great product and we’ll use it again and again.”

JULIAN BRENCHLEY, ARCHITECT



The popular Sticks and Wombat gathered momentum throughout finally discovering their mojo and impressing the judges along the way.







Old rooms (left) are rejuvenated with natural light, while the new studios (above) reveal a crisp, yet relaxed aesthetic.



The industrial vernacular given a consummately restrained touch to achieve the masculine and feminine.

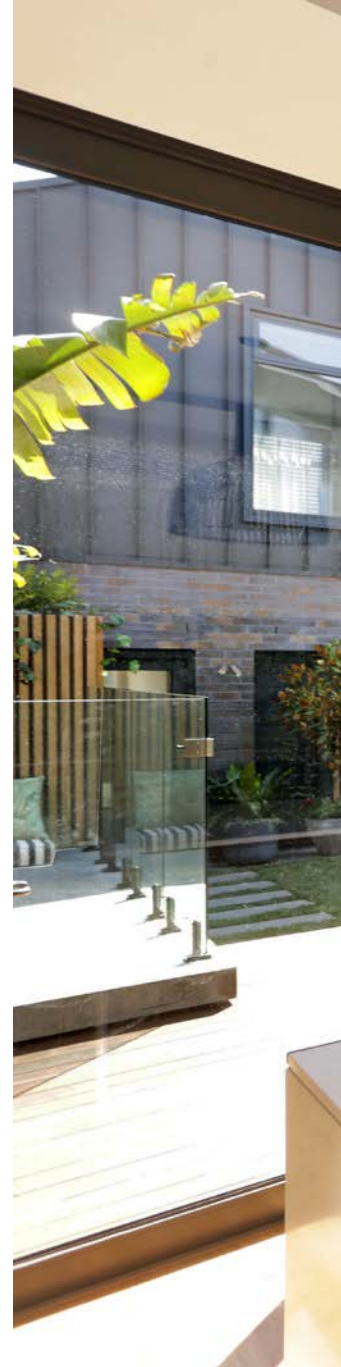
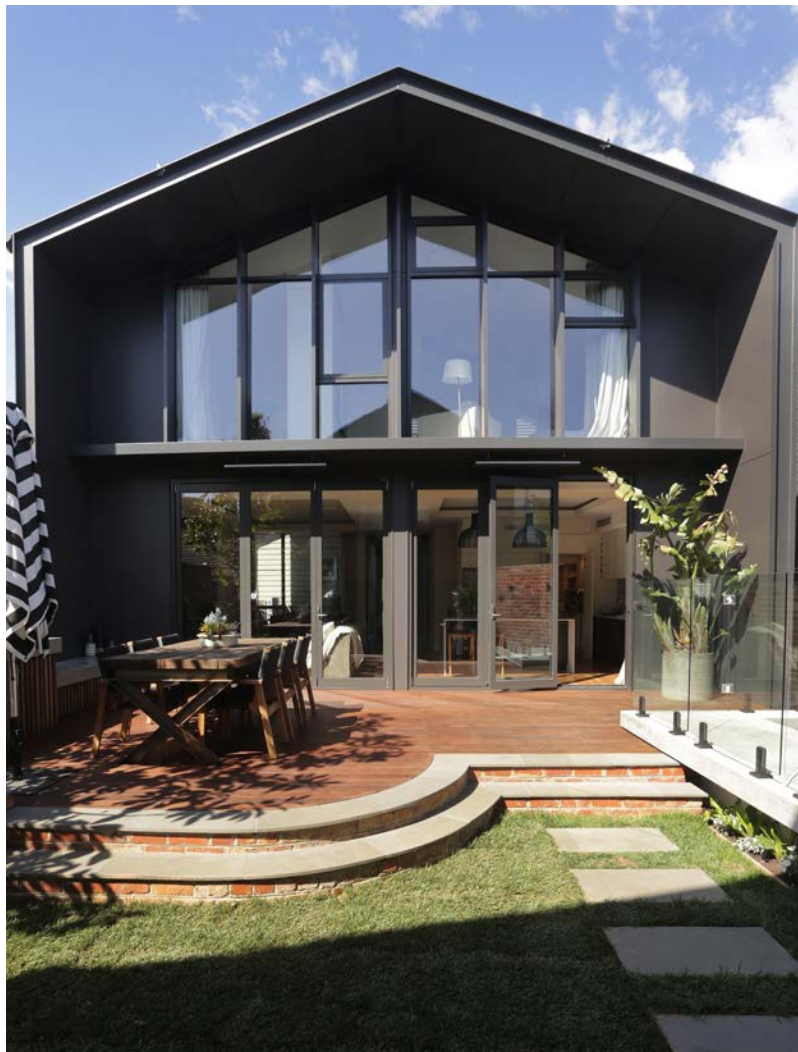


ELYSE &
JOSH

How important are local suppliers to provide that reliability and level of support?

With any building product we use on The Block and, for that matter, any product I'd use on any building, it's important to have support from a technical perspective and support on the ground. It's the only way.

To have a product like Viridian means we get the response and support back end so that any questions we need answered are done on the spot. They are a great resource so my view is to use that – it's what it's there for.





“This year’s theme of the ‘industrial look’ brought together many of CSR’s best products to realise and reveal an expressed palette of materials.”

VISION

Cathedral ceilings contribute soaring spaces and views to adjacent studios.







Elyse and Josh's design reveals a consistency through from the old house (above and right), to their lauded studio bedroom suite (below).





PROJECT
The Block 2017
Elsternwick, Victoria

ARCHITECT
Julian Brenchley,
Brenchley Architects

BUILDER
Eriylan Projects Pty. Ltd.

**WINDOW MANUFACTURER
& INSTALLER**
Jenmat Building Services

GLASS SUPPLIER
Viridian

PRINCIPAL GLAZING
Viridian LightBridge™
Viridian EnergyTech™ Clear

TEXT, IMAGES & FILM
Peter & Jenny Hyatt

AUSTRALIA

VICTORIA

Hamilton (03) 5571 1233
Melbourne (03) 9562 9562
Mildura (03) 5021 2921
Morwell (03) 5120 3600

NEW SOUTH WALES

Albury (02) 6021 4333
Coffs Harbour (02) 6651 0800
Erskine Park 1800 847 434
Ingleburn (02) 9605 0888
Newcastle (02) 4940 3700
North Ryde 1800 810 403
Tamworth (02) 6763 3600
Wollongong (02) 4271 5888

QUEENSLAND

Brisbane (07) 3365 0500
Townsville (07) 4728 0800

TASMANIA

Devonport (03) 6420 3200
Mornington (03) 6244 9700
Roakeby (03) 6247 0300

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Canberra (02) 6203 0500

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Adelaide (08) 8348 9200
Mt Gambier (08) 8721 0000

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Jandakot (08) 9411 0111

ALL AUSTRALIAN SALES ENQUIRIES

Freecall 1800 810 403

NEW ZEALAND

NORTH ISLAND

Auckland (09) 573 1427
Hamilton (07) 846 0725
Tauranga (07) 547 4280
Palmerston North (06) 358 8937
Wellington (04) 568 5251

SOUTH ISLAND

Blenheim (03) 578 0850
Nelson (03) 543 9077
Christchurch (03) 341 5007
Dunedin (03) 455 2280

FIND US ONLINE

www.viridianglass.com

SUBMISSIONS

VISION welcomes project submissions by our editorial team. Please send ideas and projects to:

viridian@csr.com.au

TEXT, IMAGES & FILM

Peter & Jenny Hyatt

www.hyattgallery.com.au

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Nexus Designs

www.nexusdesigns.com.au