

NEW HOMES
LORNA EDWARDS



Oscar rolls out the red carpet

The former nursery site in Brighton will be developed into 27 apartments on three levels.

A new development in the heart of Brighton at 2 Well Street will pay homage to the corner site's past life as a nursery with giant Washingtonia palms and vertical strips of ornamental grapes climbing up the building's exterior.

The Oscar Brighton project, by developer Urban DC, will have 27 one, two, and three-bedroom apartments over three levels on the triangular site bounded by Well Street and New Street.

"It juts out of that street into the corner like an ocean liner and the architecture incorporates a lot of landscaping which draws upon the history of the site that the locals know as the old nursery," said Urban DC director Danny Ciarna.

The Oscar building will have a prime Brighton location one block

from the Church Street shopping strip and its eateries such as The Pantry. The site is close to Cabrini Hospital and around 500 metres from the beach.

Twelve of the apartments sold before marketing had begun, to local empty-nesters looking to downsize and former Brighton residents who had already made a sea change to Portsea or Flinders and were looking for a city pad in their old neighbourhood.

The building was designed by Rothelowman Architects with landscaping by Jack Merlo Design. Chamberlain Javen designed the interiors, opting for the blank canvas of a white colour scheme with timber veneer accents.

Due to the site's triangular shape, every apartment will have street



frontage on Well or New Streets with staggered white balconies contrasting with the grey façade of the building. The centrepiece of the building's

foyer is a grand staircase which spirals up into an atrium. Communal features were deliberately kept to a minimum with the Brighton market in mind.

"This is not a place where people want to get together and have parties – it's a place where people want to come home to a serene environment and either travel down the peninsula

or go to Church Street for breakfast or dinner as their social outlet," Ciarna said.

There are seven one-bedroom apartments, 16 two-bedroom

Calming influence: Artistic impressions of the Oscar Brighton development, which is aimed at buyers seeking a "serene environment" close to the eateries and shops on Church Street. The site's past as a nursery is acknowledged in the landscaping and fine trees. A majestic internal spiral staircase will add a touch of "Oscar" glamour.



apartments and four with three bedrooms. All have two bathrooms except the one-bedroom apartments.

These are sized from 50 to 56 square metres internally, while the two-bedroom apartments are from 71 to 106 square metres and the three-bedroom apartments are

around 132 square metres. Balconies add an extra 11 square metres to 65 square metres of outdoor space. All apartments have basement parking and storage cages.

Prices range from \$455,000 to \$545,000 for one-bedroom apartments and from \$739,000 to \$999,000 for two bedrooms. The

three-bedroom apartments range from \$1.35 million to \$1.4 million.

Construction is expected to be completed by the end of next year.

Floorplans can be viewed at Marshall White's Armadale office, phone 9832 1191.



Changes: The Pantry owner Daniel Vaughan has seen the Brighton area attract more young families and professionals.

Chilled out bayside

Just a block from the new Oscar development at Brighton is local dining institution, The Pantry. Owner Daniel Vaughan said Church Street "had tumbleweeds" when he opened his restaurant there 21 years ago but now its shopping strip attracts all the major retail brands.

"It's a bustling little centre but with a real village feel as there's no trams or traffic congestion, and it's just chilled out and easy to move around."

He has seen the local population evolve from "born and bred in Brighton" to new families and young professionals.

"Where there was once one big house with a big front yard and a tennis court, now there is four apartments, so there's a real cross-section of locals now," he said. "Once you get your feet on Brighton turf and you know your way around, it's a pretty nice place to live."

Kodak site has new image

A former factory location will be home to around 1200 residents in a mix of houses and townhouses.

The shutters finally closed on the Kodak factory at Coburg North when it succumbed to the digital era in 2005. Facebook had just begun its quest for global domination and Generation Selfie was more interested in posting photos on the internet than getting film processed onto paper.

The 20-hectare former factory site has a new life as Coburg Hill, a new residential development by Satterley Property Group nine kilometres from the CBD. It will feature a mix of townhouses and houses that will eventually be home to around 1200 residents.

The estate has a new shopping

centre with a supermarket, pharmacy, bakery and other shops and its own walking and bike paths. It is close to the inner north's multicultural hubs of Coburg, Brunswick and Carlton.

For stages six and seven of the project, Satterley has teamed with builders Metricon and Boutique Homes to construct 265 townhouses, 141 with three bedrooms and 124 with two bedrooms. There are 154 still available.

The Focus by Boutique three-bedroom townhouses designed by Mills Gorman Architects range from 160 to 180 square metres internally



Self-contained: An artist's impression of Coburg Hill - residents will be near supermarkets and walking paths.

and are selling from \$665,000. All have two bathrooms, a study nook and a first-floor rumpus room plus landscaped courtyards with timber decking. The smaller two- and three-

bedroom TownLiving by Metricon townhouses were designed by dKO Architecture and are 107 to 128 square metres internally with prices starting from \$530,000. Construction is expected to finish in 2016.

The Coburg Hill sales office is open Wed-Sun on the corner of Elizabeth and Boyne streets, Coburg North, phone 1300 262 874.

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