Case Study 48

Garden City
Shopping Centre
Booragoon WA
Garden City in the Perth southern suburb of Booragoon was one of the city’s first major regional shopping malls and is rated as “unquestionably Perth’s finest shopping centre” in the words of one guide.

In the highly competitive retail environment, where presentation is vital, shopping centre operators are always looking for an edge. AMP Capital Investors chose clay paving to upgrade the broad forecourt linking the centre to Marmion Street and an adjoining major public transport facility.

The pavement body is a terracotta colour clay paver laid in herringbone pattern. The pavement is peppered with darker red clay pavers that step across the forecourt, offset by one paver width at each unit. Their regular placement allows efficient paver laying but the offset avoids the perception of elongation that would occur if the highlight pavers were aligned.

Finger-like contrasting bands criss-cross the pavement, superimposing a grid that sequesters the pavement into “walkable” sections while bisecting rows of trees planted at regular intervals. The bands comprise three rows of pavers, each unit being 150 mm square (slightly larger than a standard paver width). The outer rows are cream, while the inner row is the main terracotta colour.

The bands generally follow the line of the pavers, parallel to and at right angles to the centre’s southern facade. However on the western side...
of the forecourt, they run at 45 degrees to the paver line, directing pedestrians to the centre's entrance.

The tree surrounds are highlighted by rings of 76 mm square tumbled cobbles, again in a terracotta colour. These tiny pavers also flank tree plantings adjacent to a low limestone feature wall.

The pavers are laid on a bed of well-compacted sand. This procedure – standard in the west but usually not recommended on the clay soils common in the rest of Australia – acknowledges the pavement's light loading and Perth's well-drained sandy soils.

Thanks to skilled design and construction and a regular cleaning and maintenance program, the Garden City forecourt paving will perform well and look great for years to come.

“shopping centre operators are always looking for an edge.”

(From far left) The pavement body is peppered with dark red pavers creating strong broken diagonals. Rings of miniature tumbled pavers define tree surrounds. The broad forecourt provides an elegant, shaded approach to the shopping centre, with welcoming seating for weary shoppers.

Photography by Gary Peters