

CASE STUDY

THE BLOCK 2020: BRIGHTON

The value of windows and doors in new builds and renovations for homeowners can easily get lost in the overwhelming amount of choices – from paint colours, to finishes and everything in between! Viridian Glass is always looking for ways to communicate with homeowners about glass, and how to make high performance glazing a key consideration when making decisions for their project. Viridian's involvement on Channel Nine's The Block is a great opportunity to put a spotlight on high performance and decorative glazing.

In 2020, The Block aired to widescale audiences across Australia. Five teams renovated and extended five heritage properties in Brighton, Victoria, with record breaking auction results!

After season 2020 wrapped up, Viridian had a chat with The Block architect, Julian Brenchley, about the design decisions he made to support the contestants in their renovation journey. Here is a bit of what he said.

V So what does Viridian's product range bring to The Block?

JB In terms of what we see or, ironically, don't see, is the ability to explore the quite extraordinary introduction of natural light into these old houses. The technology in glass, with LightBridge next™ especially, gives us opportunities to do things that you probably really wouldn't have been able to consider a few years ago. So it brings a great opportunity to The Block.

V Is the orientation of all of the houses a bonus or a penalty?

JB We can't really choose the orientation of these blocks, in much the same way that you can't choose your family, but you love them nonetheless. All the sides of the buildings faced north, so in Melbourne, as you well know, you like to stay warm in winter and have your living face north. That presented some challenges, but the inclusion of courtyard or dividing spaces for all the houses, combined with the use of this high-tech glass, gave us this quite extraordinary change in the functionality of all the houses.

V LightBridge next™ is one of the relatively new products featured here to deliver the unexpected bonus of an impressive acoustic buffer. What did that mean for your designs?

JB All five houses are in the stratosphere of lovely house locations in Melbourne. New Street

does carry a bit of traffic in the morning and the afternoons so there is a modicum of noise and acoustic treatment required, especially to the old houses, which are pretty much neglected one hundred percent in this regard.

LightBridge next™ assisted greatly by creating an acoustic barrier and probably the more high-performing component of that at the end of the day, as opposed to what would have been the old traditional float in the old houses.

V There's the big glass moments, but not far behind are the bespoke elements, with decorative, patterned glass and splashbacks that all add to that mosaic of treatments light enters.

JB Well the big sense of achievement or pleasure I get out of watching what the contestants do with the bare bones of these high-performance buildings is the tapestry of life contestants bring. The splashbacks, glass balustrades, mirrors in strategic locations, capture views and sunlight and glimpses that adds a whole other dimension. As you walk through these houses as an architect of the buildings, of the framework, it's quite a pleasure to see what they actually come up with. On the whole, the appearance and what they do is extraordinary.

To read the full interview with Julian, or watch the video tour of the homes, visit viridianglass.com/theblock

GLASS PROCESSOR Viridian Glass
 ARCHITECT Julian Brenchley
 BUILDER Nine in Six
 PRODUCTS Viridian LightBridge next™
 Viridian PixaGraphic™
 Viridian VTough™



- 01 Viridian PixaGraphic™ was used to restore a 100-year-old door in House One.
- 02 Custom cut to size Viridian VTough™ was used for stair balustrading, creating more access to natural light throughout the centre of the homes.
- 03 The large-scale doors contained LightBridge next™ and created beautiful streams of light throughout the living dining centres of the homes.



IMAGES Viridian Glass