

01 Brisbane's tallest residential tower at 249m.



Infinite Variation: The Sculptural Faces of Infinity Tower

Created by developer Meriton, and designed by DBI Design, Infinity is Brisbane's tallest building, and hence its tallest residential tower. The building is fourth tallest in Australia at the time of writing at 249 metres tall, and contains 549 dwellings with a mix of serviced apartments and private residences distributed over 81 levels.



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02 The Infinity Tower is an iconic addition to the Brisbane skyline.

Such a momentous project came, as a matter of course, with equally momentous challenges for the designers. As Barry Lee, Director of Design at DBI Design, says, "the logistics of simply achieving the development outcome alone were challenging," alluding to the fact that the dictates of Brisbane's planning scheme determined the octagonal footprint of the building. The challenge for the DBI team was to meet Meriton's requirements for a luxury tower expressive at the 'city' scale, while virtually inheriting the plan shape from the planning process. Add to this that the building must be intrinsically simple, rational and economically viable, and you have a formidable design problem to solve.

Infinity has only one street frontage, which is on Herschel Street, and while the development addresses the street at its lowest levels, the development overall was designed more for its appearance as part of the skyline, seen as a graphic

form from a distance. "The impact on the city was important; the tower needed a poetic dimension, allowing us to play sculptural games from a great distance," Barry explains. And indeed, the tower skin is punctuated by a series of expressive marks or striations that vary for each different exposure.

Comprised of a black glass skin with white concrete projections, each face of the tower is treated differently, within the self-imposed, restricted material palette. Thus the demands of solar control on the western façade suggested vertical fenestration, whereas the northeast exposure is characterised by bold white horizontal projections. The effect overall is of a tower that seems vertically articulated when viewed on approach from the northwest, and horizontally banded when approached from the southeast. Set into the horizontal banding is a series of sweeping 'brushstrokes', in Barry's words, curving up through the bands. These give the tower its 'painterly' qualities – a term Barry uses to evoke the gesture of the brushstroke. In this way, "the painterly approach was more about scale than expressing occupation" defined the architecture.

While creating such an expansive visual canvas for sculptural expression, another obvious challenge was to find coatings and exterior finishes that met the demands of building a tower in a subtropical climate. The conditions at the top and bottom of a tall tower are roughly equivalent in terms of climatic wear-and-tear, and the prevalence of punishing solar exposure, wind pressure and the impact of rain on vertical and horizontal surfaces at all levels creates tough conditions for buildings constructed to handle Brisbane's climate.

In achieving the best outcome, the developer sought to work with the best available products, backed up by the best available service. This is not just to achieve a desirable end appearance on the finished product, but also to ensure that the coating will

"Taubmans were always very proactive and responsive in getting a system that met the performance and warranty requirements we had."

Erik Lundberg, ML Design

remain bright and unblemished for a longer period, without needing touching up or repainting. Both activities would be time consuming and expensive on a tower of this height; in fact, the initial painting process alone took 18 months to complete.

Taubmans was able to satisfy both of the developer's objectives, proposing Armawall™ for the protective textured exterior coatings (all of those crisp, white concrete projections), offset against the sharp black glazing. On the interiors, Taubmans once again had an ideal product – Easycoat™, a low sheen paint that delivers superior coverage combined with an ease of application. Crucially, Easycoat™ also meets the requirements of cost sensitivities in development projects. During the extensive painting process, Taubmans worked closely with the painter and the developer to ensure that all coatings and paint finishes were applied using the best techniques for the application. This ensured that quality standards were met, and the result speaks for itself.

The Infinity Tower is a bold, graphic addition to the Brisbane skyline, a beacon in the landscape of the city, visible from a great distance. When boldly building into the sky, designers and developers alike need to know that their vision will be executed in a way that is not just built to last, but built to shine. The results must look their best not just on completion of the building, but well into the future. Through a robust, innovative and economical product, combined with best-in-the-industry levels of service, Taubmans were instrumental in realizing the Infinity vision.

03 Taubmans closely monitored the application of Easycoat, ensuring exceptional quality.

