



**Opposite Page [1]** Exposed light through the cement walls helps create a more intimate dining experience. **This Page [2&3]** The basic floors and walls finished in grey cement are offset with beech flooring and a striking red plank wall, that draws patrons up towards the mezzanine. **[4]** Folding frameless glass doors on the mezzanine offer patrons the perfect garden views.

## Melbourne's new Verge restaurant and bar is an intelligent manipulation of space and dimension.

## Verge

On the edge of the city, at the base of a towering apartment building in Spring Street, Melbourne, Verge restaurant and bar is proving a popular meet. Within the Flinders Lane precinct, the venue satisfies the appetites of spectacular garden views and modern Mediterranean fare.

As a canvas to the expected crowds of business people, designers and art enthusiasts, this venue bears the distinctive Denton Corker Marshall mark, complemented by the construction of Schiavello's fitout team.

A refined coolness emanates from the café-bar entrance, up towards a slightly more intimate dining experience, and up further to the heralded mezzanine formal-dining room; each level promising patrons something different.

Modern elements have been inserted into the building's tiny concrete fabric. Of the finished product, the raw exposed ceiling is the only evidence of the original, single level space.

The principal issue with the tenancy was to create enough floor space to accommodate a street front bar and a large enough dining area to allow an appropriate turnover to be achieved. The installation of a mezzanine floor provided a solution, generating additional seating and another dimension to the space.

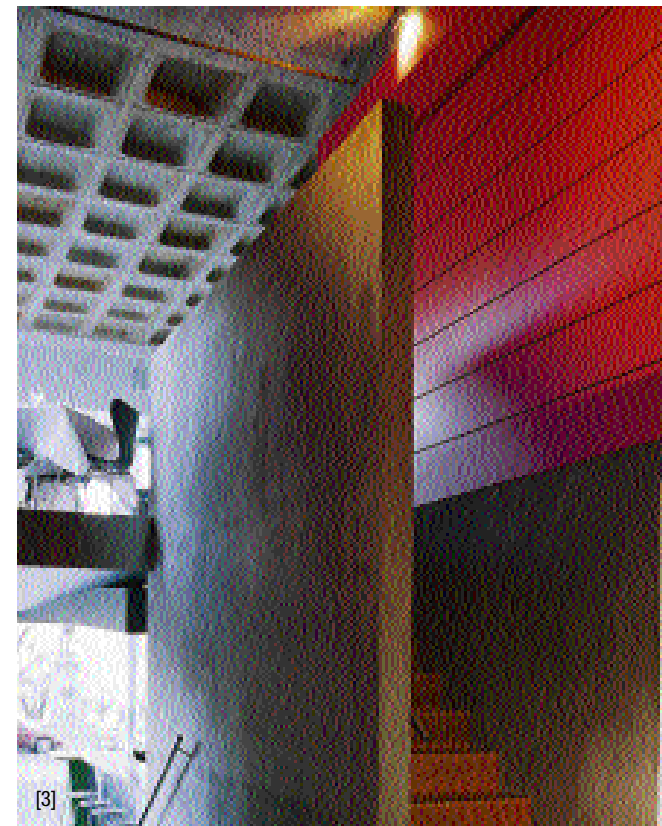
"The idea was for a fairly minimalist design that acted as a backdrop to the activities of the restaurant and bar," says John Denton of DCM.

John Denton was keen to use Schiavello again at Verge, due to its previous performance and quality workmanship of Adelphi Hotel's basement restaurant, Ezard at Adelphi.

Schiavello's refined construction detail is especially seen in the bar joinery and wall panelling. The fitout included the basic floor and walls finished in grey cement offset by materials like zinc, beech flooring, and the rock maple bar top. Linking the two dining areas is a striking red plank wall that forms the main visual component of the design idea, drawing patrons up towards the mezzanine. The planks are repeated in the leafy green external cladding, making the site's connection to the park. An occasional plank is turned to jut in or out of the line heightening the sense that the planks are stacked.

"DCM's colours are always a fairly strong aspect of their work," says Simon Denton, Verge proprietor. "The choice of colour and contrast was important in ensuring a strong connection to the park, hence the use of green, and then the interconnection of the three levels."

To take advantage of Verge's proximity to the park, folding frameless glass doors facing the gardens allow the restaurant and bar to be opened up in fine weather, the views offering the perfect backdrop.



### PROJECT SUMMARY

#### Project Location

1 Flinders Lane, Melbourne

**Client** Verge – Simon Denton, Michelle Bowen, Karen White

**Design** Denton Corker Marshall

**Schiavello (Vic) Fitout**

Daron Johnson, Tony Seci

**Area** 184 m<sup>2</sup>