

Property

Edited by: rharley@afr.com.au

Breaking news at www.afr.com

Arty apartments toast of the town

Scott Elliott with Nick Lenaghan

Melbourne's artistic underbelly is infiltrating the city's skyline, and the latest residential towers are trying to outdo one another with bold artworks and design.

The city will soon be home to buildings which feature brightly coloured exteriors, a reflective glass surface and a portrait of one of Melbourne's traditional inhabitants.

Queensland-based developer Landsolve has commissioned a sculpture by artist Mira Gojak for its Trésor development on the corner of Chapel Street and Alexander Avenue in South Yarra.

The exterior, designed by architects Roger Wood and Randal Marsh, will incorporate Ms Gojak's sculpture. "It's very early stages yet but I've been given pretty much free rein," Ms Gojak said. She said she

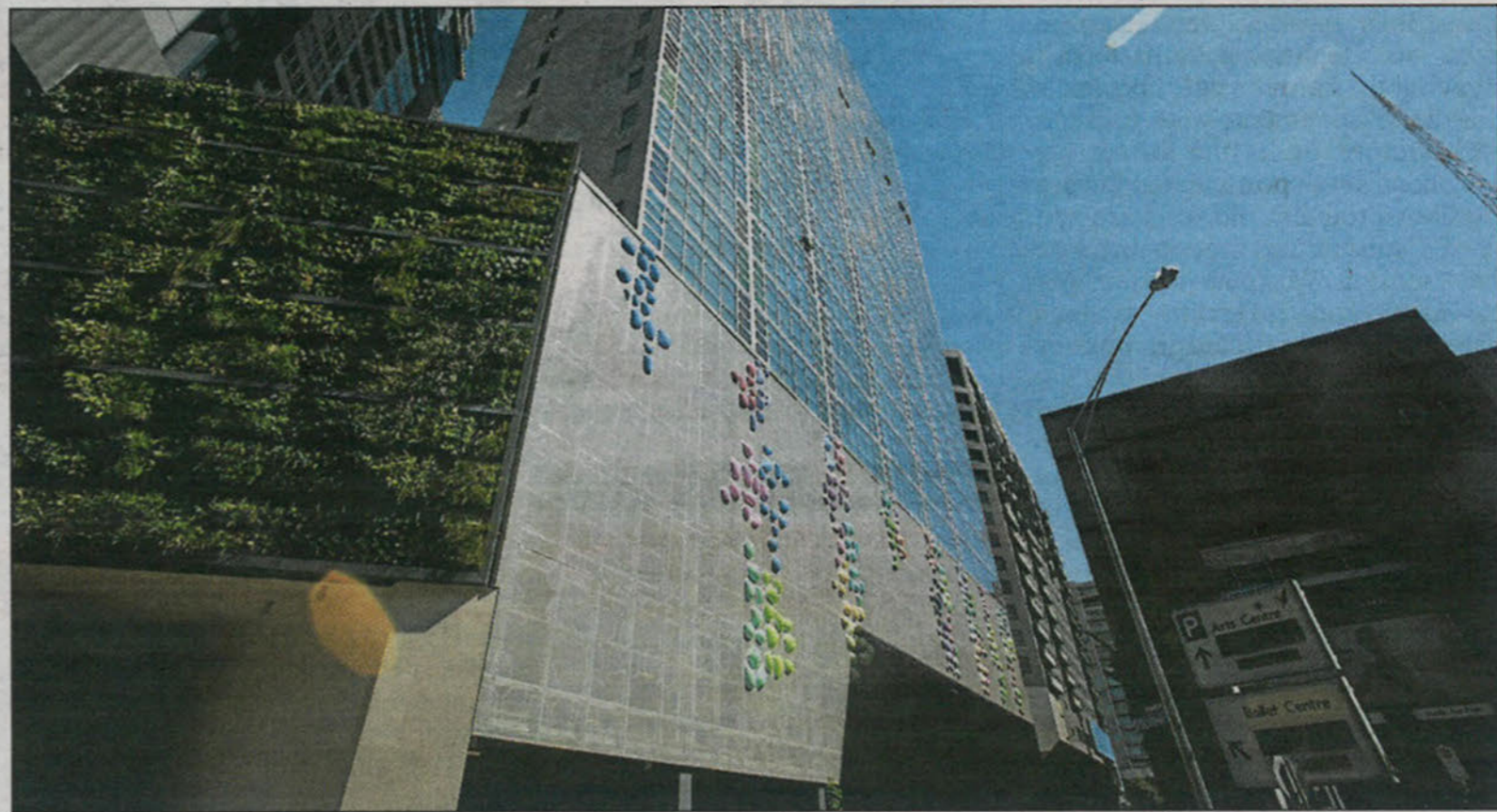
would draw inspiration from the former Lamborghini dealership's location near the Yarra River.

Further along the Yarra, in the city's art precinct, RI Real Estate Funds Management and the Stable Group have incorporated an "integrated art concept" into their Triptych development on Kavanagh Street in Southbank.

The developers have commissioned artist Robert Owen to design a multi-coloured facade and podium for the 24-level tower.

Titled Digital Showers, the Owen facade projects a prism of colours which cascade down the side of building, providing the effect of sun-lit raindrops. This is achieved through the application of varying double-glazed glass panels.

Stable Group managing director Danny Flynn said the facade was one of the most striking elements of



Built in ... the integrated art concept of the Triptych development in Melbourne's Southbank.

Photo: ERIN JONASSON

this thoroughly art-inspired building.

"Robert Owen's vision has been developed with the assistance of architects Nettleton Tribe, allowing the raindrops to eventually, and

quite cleverly, glisten in the light at different times of the day," he said.

And while Triptych wins the vote for modern expression, Grocon has opted for the traditional.

Its latest apartment tower in its

Swanston Street CUB development will feature the black and white image of Wurundjeri Aboriginal leader William Barak across the 32-storey building's sculpted facade.