



# PLACES, SPACES AND GRACES: NAMING OF THE SIENA COLLEGE CAMPUS

---

## THE DOMINICAN WAY

This proposed, integrated pedestrian pathway through the footprint of Siena College is not just a physical ground-map, but also a symbolic journey that invites us to go deeper into the Gospel story of Jesus, in the tradition of St Dominic and St Catherine who were disciples urgently on the move to bring Good News to a world at risk.

Dominican education is renowned for its pursuit of truth in an educational environment where beauty forms part of its fabric, supported by the Four Pillars of Prayer, Study, Community and Justice (Service). The Master Plan re imagines outcomes that will provide an integrated approach, fusing both its physicality and spirituality in a unified whole.

## BUNJIL'S NEST

In this world, the invisible and the visible pulse with the same life and the sacred is not separated from the secular, they are interconnected and interactive. Bunjil's Nest invites us into the First Nation Spirituality, to a deeper consciousness of the importance of land and its survival, in keeping with the Dominican value of actively supporting the integrity of creation.

## SIGNADOU

Signadou (from the French, meaning 'sign of God') is the site (Fanjeaux, Southern France) where St Dominic's vision for the Dominican Order began to unfold.

## CHAPEL

The Chapel of Siena College was created by the architect and engineer, Hamleto Agabiti, who due to an untimely death, was unable to see it to its completion. It was finalised by Richard Henry Rogers (1873-1952). Created in the Italianate style, the beautiful, domed Chapel remains the central axis of Siena College, with the span of cloisters surrounding it, the place of prayer and worship that sustains our faith, central to St Dominic's ethos.

## SIENA CONVENT

Prior Fr Jordan Powell OP from St Dominic's Priory, Camberwell, was instrumental in establishing and supporting the founding Dominican Sisters at Siena Convent in August 1926, across the road from the Friars. The Sisters welcomed its first students to its inaugural girls' high school, Siena College, in 1940. The rest is history!

## PROUILHE PLACE

In conjunction with the Salamanca story, where we see the marriage of intellectual theory and compassionate praxis (service) in a spirit of encounter and dialogue, the Prouilhe story completes the holistic, generative circle by their prayer, living the heart of contemplation and giving to others the fruit of that prayerful gaze (*'Contemplare et contemplata aliis tradere'*) that others may live, not only live, but flourish.

It is a fitting tribute that the Siena College named 'Prouilhe' Place should attest to the heart of our relationship with God (prayer) caught up in the earliest vision of Dominic at Signadou. Closely aligned to the Chapel and the cloister, the history and foundational presence of the Dominican Sisters - on whose shoulders we now stand - is now honoured.

## CALERUEGA

Caleruega is the small village on the wide plains of Castile-Leon within the Province of Burgos, Northern Spain, 151 km north of Madrid. This was the birthplace of St Dominic (1170-1221), son of Felix Guzman and Jane of Aza, and brother of Mannes and Anthony. From such small beginnings, unimagined possibilities arose that continue to influence all those who follow in the Dominican tradition over eight centuries later. Small as it is (less than 500 people live there today) a community of Dominican Friars, as well as a Monastery of Dominican Nuns, reside.

## SALAMANCA

**A passionate synergy between intellectual theory (underpinning the pursuit of truth) and apostolic commitment (service to those most vulnerable in our world) through the tools of:**

- Announcing the "reign of God", the Kingdom
- Encounter
- Respect
- Dialogue
- Followed by the capacity to listen and respond concretely to the needs that surface and persisting in that work with love and compassion until it is accomplished.

The Salamanca process is a work of "encounter and dialogue" the interplay and confluence of Study and Action: how we live what we do, and why we do it. The challenge is, not just to think differently, but to act differently. This Salamanca process became a theology of reality.



# PLACES, SPACES AND GRACES: NAMING OF THE SIENA COLLEGE CAMPUS

---

## **THOMAS AQUINAS CENTRE**

St Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) is, in a manner of speaking, the man for all seasons whose central breath was God, having great confidence in the power of human intellect. He was a theologian, philosopher, someone who drew upon the inspired wisdom of the secular, non-Christian sources and prevalent science, demonstrating a radiant openness to truth in all its forms. He continued all his life to question, seek, search and learn; this experience of searching became synonymous for him of God's love for us. He was the foremost proponent of natural philosophy which came to be known as Thomism. Ethics, natural law, metaphysics and political theory were all highly influenced by his *magnum opus*. The Thomas Aquinas Centre is named for the broad spectrum of learning available for the students to reach their fullest potential.

## **PIAZZA DI SANTA CATERINA**

Honouring St Catherine's itinerancy, her mobility in moving from place to place for the sake of the Gospel, this section of the College footprint enables students to rest a while. Before moving from this oasis in the centre of nature – a metaphor Catherine uses extensively in her writings – Catherine's statue remains a symbol to students to keep speaking to Truth in their daily lives.

## **PIAZZA SANTA SABINA**

The international headquarters of the Dominican Order of Preachers resides at Santa Sabina Basilica and Convent, boasting spectacular views from the Aventine Hill over the River Tiber, to St Peter's Basilica, Rome. Santa Sabina is the best preserved Paleochristian basilica in Rome (432 AD). It was given to St Dominic by Pope Honorius III in 1219 for his fledgling Order. This Piazza honours this part of the Dominican tradition.

## **JUBILEE CENTRE**

(Leviticus 8-18): This biblical year of restoration saw land returned to its original owners, fields laid fallow for more generative growth into the future, those in bondage set free, debts cancelled, and justice restored. The Catholic tradition has honoured this concept of Jubilee as a time of grace, celebration and renewal. Siena College celebrated its Year of Jubilee in 1990.

## **ST CATHERINE CENTRE**

St Catherine of Siena (1347-1380) was born into tumultuous times and dared to make her presence felt as a woman. She is also known to be a contemplative, a champion of the poor and a challenger to the rich, a disturber of peace, fierce with passion for the Church's reform, mired as it was in scandal. She was a prophetic teacher (and Doctor of the Church), a truth-seeker and speaker, unafraid to confront the moral complacency and bankruptcy of her time across a wide sociological and ecclesial spectrum. Catherine revisions women's transformative place in the Church. Like Catherine, we need to welcome being disturbed by the fractures of the world we live in and lend our passion to its flourishing.

## **PIONEER PLACE**

A pioneer is someone or group of people who have a vision to share, who push boundaries because they see potential in what is not yet here, who are innovators, trailblazers, and willing to take risks. This part of the Dominican Way, Pioneer Place, honours all the Dominican Sisters who took the risk to point a way forward for young women in the field of education and lived into these attributes of pioneers, here at Siena College.

## **VERITAS (TRUTH)**

'Veritas' is an ardent and ongoing search for truth in its many manifestations: through study, dialogue, discernment, scientific enquiry and curiosity. Everything is our teacher. Truth will call us to encounter, to witness to beatitude living, an awareness of who we are before God and one another and our common responsibility to help flourish all forms of life with dignity and respect.

Closely aligned to truth is knowledge; knowledge with heart, a consciousness that helps us understand the very world we inhabit and our place in it. We seek to develop critical analysis about structures, the dynamics of learning and power, refuting falsehood and overcoming ignorance, working towards equity and accountability as global citizens in a multi-cultural, multi-faith world. Knowledge and truth together build bridges to a fully-lived life, poured out for others. Called to be truth-seekers and truth bearers, we offer our world a sign of hope and are ready to be counted.

## **THE AGORA GARDENS**

The word 'Agora' (pronounced 'ah-go-RAH') comes from the Greek for an 'open place of assembly' or "gathering place". Within the Dominican tradition, gathering together as a community is integral to the flourishing of life and interconnectedness. The Agora Gardens becomes a space where friendship, laughter, exchange and ease support the wellbeing of our students, as well as being a place and space of beauty.



# PLACES, SPACES AND GRACES: NAMING OF THE SIENA COLLEGE CAMPUS

## WURUNDJERI GARDENS

**In the learning borne of country is the light that nourishes the world.<sup>1</sup>**

The First Nation approach to land as always been a deep and sacred relationship; every aspect of their lives is connected to it, their spirituality, social relationships, survival itself. For them, it is like having a second skin, the land owning them and requiring stewardship, not ownership. Our students have much to learn about right relationship towards the integrity of creation<sup>2</sup> and in learning and being in dialogue around our rich, ancient Indigenous heritage.

## LATINGATA MORROM SPORTS AND RECREATION CENTRE

To recognise the sister spirit of all women across the ages, especially our Aboriginal sisters. '*Latingata Morrom*' (sister spirit)

## HERITAGE HOUSE

This was the previous convent home of the Dominican Sisters who established Siena College. It has been renamed 'Heritage House', home of the historical archives and a meeting place for the Siena College alumnae.

## MEZEI HOUSE

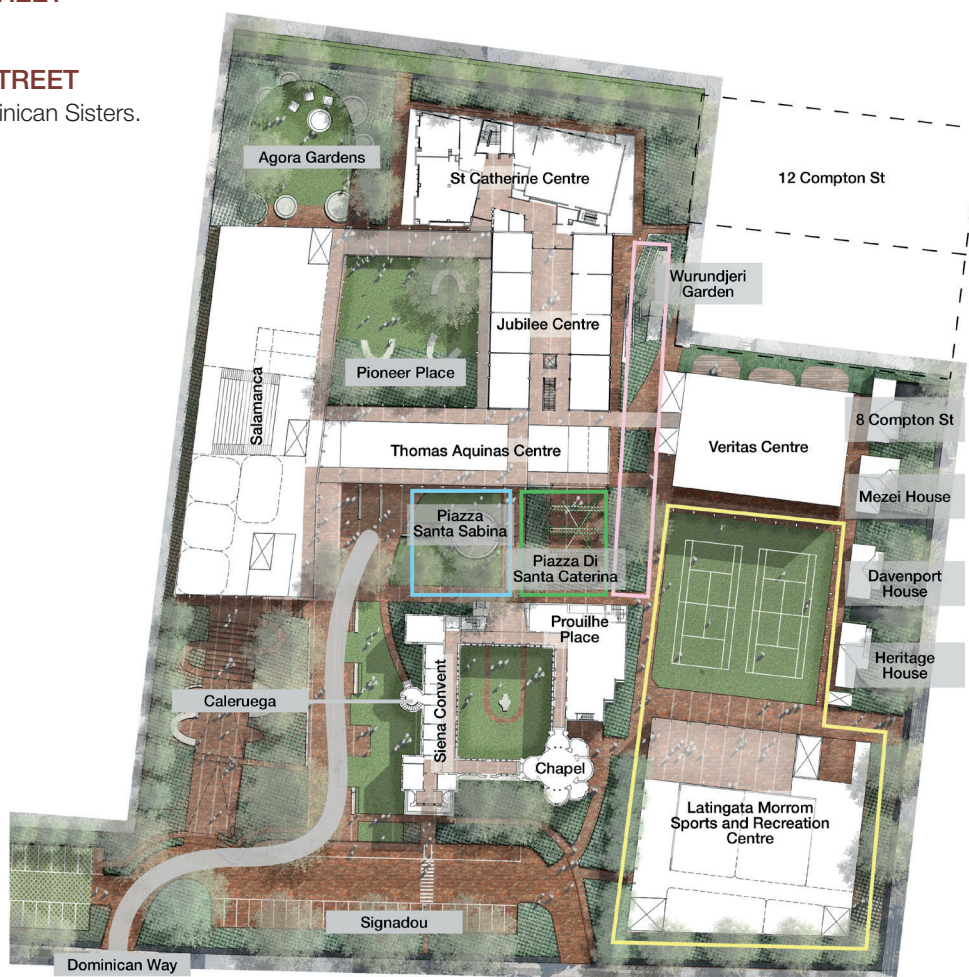
Siena College acquired the property at 6 Compton Street, Camberwell in December 2015, the former home of Maria and Emil Mezei and their family. The house was named Mezei house in memory of Maria.

## 8 COMPTON STREET

Privately rented.

## 12 COMPTON STREET

Owned by the Dominican Sisters.



<sup>1</sup> Ambelin Kwaymullina, Aboriginal lawyer, cited in <https://theconversation.com/the-art-of-healing-five-medicinal-plants-used-by-aboriginal-australians-97249>

<sup>2</sup> Cf. *Laudato Si*, Pope Frances