

Firing the imagination at Beehive Montessori.



Brikmakers understands that communities, like buildings, are created brick-by-brick, contribution-by-contribution.

It's why we were very excited to accept Beehive Montessori School's invitation to help create an unusual and very powerful learning experience and ongoing production facility at its Mosman Park Campus.

An artistic project with wonderful long-term benefits.

Ceramic artistic, Adil Writer, who lives in the innovative international community of Auroville in Southern India, recently offered to share his knowledge of clay ceramics production and kiln firing.

In order to build two raw clay architectural domes, Adil needed some already fired clay bricks.

And that's where the Brikmakers team came in.

We donated and delivered the Brikmakers bricks needed to enable the construction of the raw clay architectural domes, employing the peculiar building technique used on many Indian brick homes.

The unique approach treats the inside of the house as a kiln and produces some or all of the ceramic products (tiles, pipes, wash basins, toilet fittings and the like) with which to complete the home's construction.

The permanent brick domes at Beehive Montessori School were each three metres wide by two metres high and took shape over a period of ten days.



Laying the Brikmakers clay bricks to create one of the 3m x 2m domes.

Hands-on learning for students, teachers and parents.



Everyone got involved



Kahutia stoking the dome through a spy hole.

Under Adil's expert guidance, each child took a turn at mixing the mortar, stacking the bricks and then laying them in the prescribed circular formation.

Inside the dome, the young students stacked the small works of clay they had produced, ready for firing.

Both domes were then candled gently overnight by a gas flame before the children began stoking the fire through special spy holes and vents in the kiln walls.

It took twelve hours to stoke the kiln fire with wood and get the temperature up to the 1,000 degrees Celsius needed.

The fiery climax everyone stayed to enjoy.

The exercise culminated in an extraordinary sunset festival of fire, light and celebration as all the school's staff, families and friends gathered to watch the kiln reach the desired temperature.

As the outer skin of the kiln was exposed to the cold night air, the children circled the roaring success and threw wheat husks into the dancing flames.

It was a mesmerising and majestic sight and an unforgettable experience Brikmakers is delighted to have helped make possible.



The domes reach their final shape.



Firing the clay domes and the onlookers' imaginations.