



## Holy Trinity

A heritage-listed 1865 sandstone cathedral and its staid, 1930s rear addition have received a total new look thanks to the clever addition of a third uniting element - with award winning results.

The requirement was to develop an architectural treatment that would unify its disparate front and rear buildings and remain true to the classical beauty of the original sandstone church proper, – while also meeting modern day practical requirements.

This included expanding seating numbers, improving the internal layout and sight lines to the church's sanctuary, improving the acoustics and ensuring the integrity of the mausoleum crypt – while still accommodating the practicalities of the church's administrative and parish functions, including the provision of public toilets and car parking.

To help meet this challenging brief, architect Peter M Quinn decided to situate some of the practical functions – such as car parking – underground, giving him free rein on the aesthetic front at street level.

Precast concrete was chosen for a number of different elements because of its architectural and structural qualities. The feature columns and stairwell panels form an integral part of the building structure but also provide a high quality architectural finish.

### Project Owner

Roman Catholic Church

### Architect and Project Superintendent

Peter M Quinn Architect  
EMCO Building

### Service Engineer

BG & E Consulting  
Engineers

### Precast Manufacturer

Delta Corporation

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The architect invited Delta Corporation to work with the design team and the building contractor to provide its architectural precast expertise to supply a product that would fulfil all aspects of the project's stringent requirements.

According to Delta Corporation's Matt Perrella, these precast components were all designed and moulded to echo the features of the original 1865 building, and included soaring columns up to 15,540mm high, 1200mm wide and 300mm thick, the signature spired tower, the clerestory, nave, spandrel wall panels and processional forecourt columns. Also in stainless steel reinforced precast, and manufactured in a purpose-made fibreglass mould, is the Cathedral's signature feature: the cross that sits atop and clearly unites the elements of the cathedral precinct.

To ensure sympathetic blending with the original sandstone building, the precast featured a mixture of coloured off-form and lightly grit (sand) blasted finishes.

These new precast elements now form a third, uniting link between the two original sections of the church, providing a literal 'happy medium' that now presents a seamless face to the world.

The verdict on the finished project has been that all-too-rare one in public and heritage architecture circles: overwhelmingly positive. Parishioners, the design and architectural community and the Roman Catholic Church are united in

their appreciation of their new place of worship. And the outstanding vision of architect, Peter M Quinn has also been recognised. The project received top billing in the 2010 WA Architect Awards, winning the top award, the George Temple Pool Award, an Architecture Award in the heritage category and the Jeffrey Howlett Award for Public Architecture.

According to reports of the Awards presentation, the project was described by the President of the Australian Institute of Architects' WA Chapter as a 'clear standout' from more than 100 entries.