Workplace 6

6-star Precast in NSW

Workplace 6 is situated on the waterfront at Pyrmont, next door to the Sydney Casino. The highest achievable Green Star rating is proudly advertised by tenants such as Google who have chosen the building for their new Sydney headquarters.

Construction commenced in April 2007 and was completed in November 2008, providing approximately 18,200 sqm of space over six storeys and offering some of the largest commercial floor plates in Sydney, of over 3,600 sqare metres. All office levels enjoy excellent natural light and exceptional harbour views to the north and east of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the western CBD skyline.

Michael Morgan, Managing Director of nettletontribe architects offers an insight to the design philosophy of the precast façade by commenting, "Responding to the sandstone escarpments along Pyrmont Point and the casino building to the south, the Pirrama Road façade is predominantly masonry in the form of precast concrete panels."

Project Owner
The GPT Group

Architect and Project Superintendent
Nettletontribe architects
Developer: Citta Property Group

Service Engineer
TLB

Builders
Buildcorp

Precast Manufacturer
Precast Concrete Products

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"The facade has been designed to complement the adjacent street facade of the casino building, with building services access contained within this masonry street frontage."

The use of replacement cementitious materials and recycled aggregates in the precast façade contributed to the achievement of this momentous 6-star goal. The challenge for Brisbane based Precast Concrete Products was to comply with the stringent environmental criteria at the same time as delivering a high quality acid washed, integrally coloured finish on the panels.

The biggest issue for the precaster was in relation to the recycled aggregates required to achieve the Green Star rating. Commercially available sources of recycled aggregates are typically contaminated with wood, glass, bricks and other materials, so an innovative manufacture technique was developed to allow this material to be used in the concrete mix whilst still maintaining high strength and durability requirements, along with the high quality of finish required on the faces of the panels.

The resulting façade satisfies both the high quality aesthetic requirements and the stringent environmental criteria and showcases the ability of precast to provide both form and function in contemporary building projects.