



THE 'G' GETS A FACELIFT

BEST COMMERCIAL EXTERIOR

Melbourne's reputation as Australia's bastion of sport – and the sporting capital of the world – is, to some degree, epitomised by the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), which is often filled to capacity on Boxing Day as the Aussie cricket team do battle with a touring side.

Over the years, generations of fans have gathered on the hallowed turf of what is affectionately known as 'the G', to watch state of origin Rugby League, Rugby Union and soccer internationals and, of course, Australian Rules football.

During its 153-year history, the MCG has been subject to constant redevelopment. On 17 February 2007, a group of dignitaries, which included Governor of Victoria John Landy and Premier of Victoria Steve Bracks, unveiled a set of plaques to commemorate the completion of the three-and-a-half-year project, which cost \$434 million.

The redevelopment of the Ponsford stand, the Olympic stand and the Members pavilion has resulted in the provision of 55,000 new seats. The work encompassed 55 per cent of the stadium, which now has an official capacity of 100,000 spectators.

Naturally, stone played a part in the works conceived by a team of architects tagged MCG5.

The façade of the northern stand features approximately 750 square metres of 40 mm honed Deer Park bluestone. The material was processed by Melocco, which included the provision of specialised fixing details – the stone was housed in precast panels by Fabcon Precast, and the panels were hoisted into position.

Some of the stone utilised on free-standing blade walls at pavement level at the entrance to the Members stand, was imported from China.

Specifications

Project:
Façade of northern stand,
Melbourne Cricket Ground

Architect:
MCG5,
Daryl Jackson Architects,
Hok Sport,
Tompkins Shaw & Evan,
Hassell and Cox Architects,
International Structural

Engineers:
Connell Mott MacDonald
and Arup

Builder:
Grocon Constructions

Stone:
Deer Park Bluestone
750 x 340 x 40 mm

Supplied & Processed:
Melocco Stone