



CHAMPAGNE MARBLE AND PEARLS

BEST COMMERCIAL INTERIOR

Having established a successful relationship with Paspaley Pearls 15 years ago when they opened their first jewellery boutique in Sydney, Designfocus Resource was entrusted with the major challenge of converting an imposing Heritage-listed banking chamber in Martin Place, Sydney, to an elegant and inviting flagship store.

Emphasising the grandeur of the architecture while creating a showcase for the most beautiful pearls in the world was part of the challenge. Major construction works were carried out on the ground floor to create a new entry and staircases. The mezzanine floor was extended, redefining the retail space with the extensive use of beautiful marble.


The client asked for the marble to have a white background with an apricot hue and Champagne Blush from Cairns Marble was the stone finally selected by Designfocus Resource and Stoneplus director Pieter Boer.

Stoneplus, who have more than 24 years of stonemasonry experience, carefully removed the heritage trachyte window sill and spandrel to create the new entry to the shop. A new landing

in Champagne Blush was laid, along an elegant staircase featuring curved marble treads and risers with brass inlays as well as 'ramped and twisted' marble capping and handrails.

The design required flush alignment of the curved-on-plan capping with the stringers, and the entire capping and elliptical handrail was to be ramped and twisted to suit the curve and fall of the stairs. Stoneplus made 3D CAD drawings to co-ordinate stone, steel and glass as well as manage the Building Code of Australia requirements for head clearance and alignment of tread and riser.

Computer templates were made from the drawings, so that the handrail, capping pieces and stringers could be factory produced. Stone was cut, shaped and honed at the company's Brookvale factory, then checked and refined by templates with marginal work in-situ. The handrail was made over length to provide tolerance for on-site variables, but the ramp and twists made in the factory all fitted to the glass balustrade.

Cairns Marble will exhibit a variety of superb Australian marbles at the FFTSE expo in Sydney, April 17-19. 

Specifications

Project:

Paspaley Pearls
2 Martin Place, Sydney

Architect:

Designfocus Resource

Builder:

Kell & Rigby

Stone:

Champagne Blush marble

Supplier:

Cairns Marble

Fabricator:

Stoneplus