



SANDSTONE ON A RISING CURVE

BEST COMMERCIAL INTERIOR

In December 2000, Hilton Sydney ran a design competition in an effort to refurbish the hotel – regarded by many, when it opened in 1975, as Australia’s first truly international hotel.

The competition jury selected a submission by Denton Corker Marshall, now Johnson Pilton Walker, as the most appealing proposal in January 2001. Leighton Contractors were appointed in 2002.

The concept – designed in accordance with the City of Sydney council’s Design Excellence Guidelines – emerged from a sound appreciation of the historic nature of the site, which faces both George and Pitt Streets in Sydney’s commercial business district and overlooks the elegant sandstone façade of the grand Queen Victoria Building.

Paul van Ratingen, one of the project directors, described the redevelopment of the hotel as “a complete rebuild of the podium after stripping the existing structure to its essential elements. The remaining structural elements created the dramatic volumes and sequence of space that

defined a perfect framework for the new hotel arrangement.”

The exterior of Hilton Sydney featured in the first Australian Stone Architectural Awards in 2006 and won the award for Best Commercial Exterior. The interior of the building is no less impressive.

In the glass brasserie, Piles Creek sandstone from Gosford Quarries was specifically selected and crafted to connect visually with the opulent sandstone fascia of the Queen Victoria Building – visible through a floor-to-ceiling glass wall. Monumental columns of substantially curved sandstone dominate the room without being overpowering. The soft and subtle colour variations within the sandstone add to the brasserie’s ambience and charm.

Specifications

Project:

Hilton Sydney

Architect:

Johnson Pilton Walker

Construction company:

Leighton Contractors

Façade engineer:

Hyder Consulting

Project manager:

Page Kirkland Management

Stone:

Sandstone

Supplier:

Gosford Quarries

Location:

Sydney, NSW