



Entry for :
**IMPORTED STONE
- COMMERCIAL EXTERIOR**

Project:
**Crown Casino Mahogany East End
Redevelopment. New sandstone
fluted facade**

Management:
**Crown Projects & Design Department
Josef Seidler Project Director**

Architect:
Bates Smart, Melbourne

Stone:
Teakwood Sandstone

Supply & installation:
Apex Stone Pty Ltd. Victoria

Peak of excellence at Crown

Melbourne's Crown Casino has recently completed their Mahogany East End Redevelopment project – a substantial refurbishment of the Crown Towers reception area and the exclusive Mahogany Room.

While much of the internal work is not so readily accessed by the public, Bates Smart's stunning new sandstone and glass façade has become Crown's new public persona in this elevation.

As the elegant fluted panels fold around the building, they are a perfect example of the flexibility of natural stone as a construction material – a product that has few peers in terms of durability and aesthetics.

Bates Smart Director, Kristen Whittle: "Teakwood sandstone was specified for its golden colour and natural variation, and blocks were individually selected to work together in matched panels that shift and change across the facade in a seamless manner.

Apex Stone worked closely with Crown, Bates Smart and curtain wall contractor Minesco to prepare the stone in sets for the wall elements. The final outcome, however, masks the complex procedures required to bring the design to fruition. Ralph Cristiano, Director of Apex Stone, one of Melbourne's leading suppliers and fabricators of stone explains, "The manufacturing process involved initial cutting to shape of individual panels using a CNC Profile Wire Saw. Secondary cutting then produced precisely dimensioned panels for each section, and then we utilised our 5 axis CNC machine to grind the concave panels to the precise final radius, calibrate the feature edge and mill the shaped rebate for the curtain wall fixing."

Apex Stone's experienced team of installers completed the installation of the 287 Teakwood sandstone panels, with a total weight of approximately 46.5 tonnes. **05**