



A hard rock classic!

Category:
AUSTRALIAN STONE
Best Commercial
Project

Project:
Art Gallery of NSW
Forecourt repair and access

Architecture:
Johnson Pilton Walker

Project Management:
DeBruin Projects

Stone:
Verde Austral
(Fraser range WA)

Stone Supplier:
Melocco Stone

The leading public gallery in New South Wales and one of Australia's foremost cultural institutions – the Art Gallery of NSW – was established in 1874. The current sandstone façade dates back to 1896. Its collections are housed in one of the most beautiful art museums in the world. It is well known nationally as the location of the annual Archibald Prize for portraiture.

Architecturally, the building reflects 19th century ideas about the cultural role of a gallery as a temple to art and civilising values.

In early 2011 a decision was taken to upgrade the approach to the museum by repaving the forecourt and simultaneously providing ramp access.

Melocco was approached in late July to provide some 500 square metres of Verde Austral granite paving and perimeter kerbing over an extremely short supply time. As

Melocco processed the required blocks the design was finalised and the product supplied inside six weeks.

Prior to this Melocco had been quarrying Verde Austral from the Fraser Range deposit for the City of Sydney, whilst at the same time quarrying stock material for private projects such as this. This allowed specific blocks to be selected to suit the paver sizing and provided a quarry face-to-building face service.

Verde Austral, also known as Perth Green, is a dark green granite which possesses a fine grain texture. The stone is quarried at Norseman in Western Australia. It is generally used for a wide variety of internal and external applications in a variety of forms which include; slabs, panels and tiles. Stone is produced in a number of finishes – polished, exfoliated, honed and gang sawn. Water absorption is a low 0.68 per cent. ⁰⁵

