



CATEGORY

AUSTRALIAN STONE

- BEST CIVIC PROJECT -

PROJECT:
**Sydney Opera House Vehicle
 Access and Pedestrian Safety
 Project (VAPS)**

CLIENT:
Sydney Opera House

ARCHITECTURE:
Scott Carver Pty Ltd

ARCHITECT IN CHARGE:
Doug Southwell

CONTRACTOR:
John Holland Group

STONES USED:
**Sienna Brown (Sedan, SA) Calca
 Red (Streaky Bay, SA)**

STONE SUPPLIER:
Melocco Stone

Walk this way

The World Heritage-listed Sydney Opera House is one of the busiest tourist and cultural precincts in Australia, welcoming over 8.2 million visitors annually. The building operates 24 hours a day, 363 days a year. Previously, pedestrians shared the forecourt with over 1000 heavy vehicle movements each week.

The VAPS project was envisaged to enhance tourist and visitor safety, by removing heavy vehicles from the forecourt to a new underground loading dock. This allows pedestrians to have safe and exclusive access to all Opera House facilities at forecourt level.

The VAPS project involves the replacement of the existing pavement of split face setts with a more uniform pavement in the same material (Sienna Brown) that was used 40 years ago. The new setts have a more pedestrian-friendly flamed finish but still retain their rustic appeal with split sides.

The large paving bands of gang-sawn Calca Red were upgraded to flamed Calca Red. The project also involves specialised curved paving, from the roundabout at the Macquarie Street entrance, to the forecourt, kerbs and loading dock ramp. Massive granite bollards have been positioned at the approach to the ramp.

Over 500,000 setts of Sienna were manufactured for the project, plus 1100 square metres of Calca Red pavers: eighty millimetres thick and up to 1340 x 885mm in size. The setts were predominantly processed at Melocco's Black Hill facility, using wire saws to turn the quarried blocks into slabs, which were flamed, and then split. The Calca paving was produced at Melocco's former Springvale site and its new premises in Dandenong South. 

