



GRANITE MAKES THE GRADE

CATEGORY: BEST COMMERCIAL INTERIOR - STONE

Sydney's newest tower at 126 Phillip Street represents a departure from traditional office construction to achieve sweeping design reforms with spatial rejuvenation, creating a building tuned to the 21st century.

This project recently featured in an extensive review of the stone industry in Australia, published by *Architectural Review*. Specifiers love the project's clean lines, and the warm nature of the Austral Juperana exfoliated granite.

In excess of 1400 square metres of this hard-wearing stone was quarried by AustralAsian Granite.

Raw blocks of stone are typically processed into bench tops or tiles. In this instance, the task of producing 430 x 1121 x 40 mm slabs was entrusted to Australian major, Melocco Stone.

Individual pieces of stone can vary substantially, so it is common practice to grade and sort large slabs or tiles prior to laying or installing bench tops, in an effort to achieve a harmonious blend.

In many instances, stone is rigorously tested prior to specification to qualify its suitability for a

specific project. Australian Stone Advisory Association (ASAA) director Jim Mann, of Stone Initiatives & Materials Testing, conducted tests in accordance with the architect's instructions.

This particular project picked up a major award in the inaugural Australian Stone Architectural Awards, which were organised by ASAA with support from the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

Saba Bros laid the stone in conjunction with Pieter Boer of Stone Plus. Architects Foster & Partners (London) worked in conjunction with leading local architects Hassell.

The exfoliation process greatly enhances the product's slip resistance characteristics.

PROJECT:

126 Phillip Street, Sydney

PROJECT MANAGEMENT:

Bovis Lend Lease

LEAD ARCHITECT:

Foster & Partners, London

COLLABORATING ARCHITECT:

Hassell

PROJECT DIRECTOR:

Sven Ollman

STONE:

Exfoliated Austral Juperana granite; pavers 430 x 1121 x 40 mm

INSTALLATION:

Saba Bros Tiling