



New Indigenous Galleries showcase local stone

Category:
AUSTRALIAN STONE
Best Civic Project

Project:
**National Gallery of Australia:
 Stage 1B Indigenous Galleries
 and New Entrance**

Architecture:
PTW Architects

Construction Project Managers:
Manteena

Facade Engineers:
Arup & Partners

Marble Fitters:
Shellbay Stones

Stones Supply:
**Cairns Marble. Suspended
 feature wall: 28mm 'Bianca
 Mist' Chillagoe. VIP bathroom
 vanity tops: 20mm 'Bianca Mist'
 Chillagoe. Wall panels: 20mm
 'Bianca Mist' Chillagoe and 20mm
 'Pilbara Green' WA marble**

Stage 1 of the development of the National Gallery of Australia was officially opened on 30 September 2010 by Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia. The development features a wide variety of Australian materials which include Mintaro Slate from South Australia, sawn Austral Black granite from Melocco and the featured Bianca Mist Chillagoe white marble quarried, processed and supplied by Cairns Marble.

Sandblasted 'Bianca Mist' features in several locations; it is prominent on a suspended, mechanically fixed wall which is located in the foyer. Architect Simon Parsons of PTW Architects said, "We chose Cairns Marble's Bianca Mist because it is particularly white and while the Director of the gallery wanted to use marble he wanted a pure look without much colour. We particularly liked it because it is translucent which meant it glowed during the day. We prototyped the material and selected a 28 mm thickness. To guarantee

colour and suitability we visited the quarry, selected the blocks and in turn the panels cut from the blocks. The stones hardness was an attraction as was the fact that it is Australian".

The VIP Bathrooms feature 20 mm thickness polished Bianca Mist vanity tops, and a combination of 20 mm wall panels in Bianca Mist and Cairns Marbles award winning Pilbara Green marble which is extracted from their quarry in Western Australia.

In addition to the new foyer and entrance the development includes a Gallery shop, a function and event space, a street café and 11 new indigenous art galleries which house the largest single collection of Australian indigenous art.

PTW Architects were the project architects, Mr. Colin Madigan AO, was the principal design architect for the original building. Arup & Partners handled the suspended facade design.

The National Gallery is located at Parkes Place, in Canberra. **05**

