



ARCHITECTURAL AMENITIES

Public amenities' blocks are not usually renowned for their architectural features, but a new block in Hobart looks likely to change that. In the heart of Hobart's Battery Point, Princes Park is known by local families for its popular boat-themed playground.

As part of the City of Hobart's Public Toilet Strategy 2015-2025, the existing aged amenities' facility has been replaced with a robust new structure comprising retaining walls, wall panels and a roof, all manufactured using precast concrete.

Designed with best practice Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principals, the facility has been relocated closer to the playground where there is improved passive surveillance. It will more fully cater for the Park's patrons and will meet modern Australian Standards, including provision of equal access.

Precaster

Duggans Precast

Architect

Terrior

Engineer

Aldanmark

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PRECAST GEOMETRY

Huon Valley precast manufacturer and National Precast member Duggans was contracted to manufacture the elements for this project. According to Scott Combes, the company's Project Manager and Estimator, many precast firms opted not to consider the project because of the high degree of difficulty.

"It was a challenge, particularly the geometry of it. The architect had a few two-dimensional drawings. We had to model the whole thing up in three dimensions to get the shapes and panels right and then had to produce drawings for the team on the factory floor so they could get their head around it," said Mr Combes.





The structure consists of sloping angular wall panels with multi-plane precast roof panels. The Duggans factory produced nine panels of various sizes. The formwork was unique for each precast element and was fabricated from steel plates and formply on steel and timber framework. Almost all the edges of the panels were beveled. The external finish is coloured, exposed aggregate with an anti-graffiti sealer applied. The sealer ensures the concrete is protected and makes the amenities block easier to clean.

AN UNREAL RESULT

Mr Combes says the complexities of the project made it all the more satisfying for his team. "It was very stressful at the time because of the nature of the work and the time constraints, but it looked unreal when it came together," Mr Combes said. Due to the complicated nature of the shapes, Mr Combes explained the shop drawings "did the rounds" for several weeks. Once the design details were resolved, there were only a couple of weeks on the project timeline to actually manufacture the walls. The team worked together to ensure the final product was high quality and fulfilled the vision and expectations of the architect.

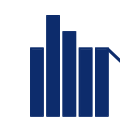
ERECTED IN A DAY

One of the significant advantages of precast concrete construction is the speed of a build. This project was a great example of that time saving, with the toilet block erected in just one day. Mr Combes says precast was the obvious choice for this ambitious design.

"The architect had a vision and precast was the only option to make it practical". The result speaks for itself - a unique amenities block that is not only practical but also aesthetically interesting. The amenities block is sure to turn heads.

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