

Wat Dhammadharo Thai Buddhist Temple



Stunning Thai Buddhist Pagoda in Canberra

The Australian capital Canberra is known for its spectacular architecture, from New Parliament House to the National Gallery Precinct and the iconic Shine Dome. Now a Buddhist Temple in the suburb of Lyneham is attracting attention for its impressive exterior. The Wat Dhammadharo Thai Buddhist Temple has the only pagoda in the southern hemisphere featuring traditional Thai architecture.

Creating beauty with Glassed Reinforced Concrete

Adelaide-based precast manufacturer and National Precast member, Asurco Contracting was critical to this spectacular project. According to Managing Director Des Pawelski, the original builder of the temple was unable to complete the project, so his company took over. It was a huge undertaking to collaborate on design and engineering as well as supply and install Glass Reinforced Concrete (GRC).

This versatile product, which can be moulded into almost any shape, was used to create the columns, domes and intricate details for the Wat Dhammadharo Thai Buddhist Temple. Usually the glass fibres in the GRC are sufficient to reinforce the concrete, but in this case, due to the design, the GRC was supported, in some cases, by light-weight and heavier steel frames.

Precaster

Asurco Contracting

Builder

Asurco Contracting

Client

Dhammadharo Buddhist Inc.

www.nationalprecast.com.au





The impressive elements of the temple were manufactured over a nine month timeframe. The majority of moulds for the GRC were designed by the team at Asurco, while some of the more intricate details were moulded in Thailand. Mr Pawelski says there were challenges in making some of the moulds because this was such a unique project.

“We hadn’t done anything like this before. It was a very satisfying job in the factory, because we made something from nothing and the end result is quite beautiful”.

The gold coating for the elements is a mineral paint, a durable, colourfast and sustainable protective finish, that promises low maintenance and longevity.

Building a Temple

The elements for this eye-catching temple were delivered and installed over a three-month period.

“There were some challenges in transporting the elements to Canberra,” said Mr Pawelski. “The large dome at the top needed to be transported with an escort because it was so big”. The Temple features the tallest pagoda, at 24 metres high, of Thai Buddhism in Australia.

There’s more work to do on this stunning temple. Over the next 12 months another section of the grounds will be developed. The team at Asurco is looking forward to being involved.

“For the team in the factory this is one of the most satisfying jobs we’ve ever been involved in because it’s such a beautiful job”.

Call Asurco Contracting on 08 8240 0999,
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