

# Where culture meets contemporary student living

Located just minutes from Redfern Station, Wee Hur Y Suites on Margaret stands out as a new addition to Sydney's student accommodation offering.

Situated at 108 Regent Street, Wee Hur Y Suites on Margaret is an 18-storey development that honours local heritage and Indigenous culture through its architectural detailing and use of precast concrete.

### A celebration of identity

Following in the footsteps of its sister development on Gibbons Street, the project

continues the commitment to creating vibrant, community-oriented student housing. Designed to inspire learning, connection and wellbeing, the building accommodates 408 beds in a mix of single and double studio layouts, complemented by a range of communal spaces.

A standout feature of the project is the Aboriginal-themed public artwork that graces

the southern elevation. Titled 'Mana-gubra', the five-storey mural was created by First Nations artist Leanne Tobin and curated by Nicole Monks. It depicts women and children gathering 'gubra' and carrying their food in dilly bags back to camp. The mural is formed from 10 custom precast panels, detailed to create a seamless flow across each joint.

Crafted using layered CNC-routed high-density styrene moulds by The Blue Print, positioned atop striped form-liner bases, the panels exhibit a dynamic relief effect. Each element is hand-finished and coated in a two-tone Ecotone-stained finish, adding depth and enhancing the visual impact of the design.

National Precast Master Precaster Advanced Precast was instrumental in translating this artistic vision into reality, demonstrating the unique capabilities of precast concrete in achieving expressive, culturally significant façades.

"It was an honour for our team to help bring the vision of Leanne Tobin and Nicole Monks to life and contribute to a project that respects and celebrates Indigenous heritage," says Brett Foster, national business development manager at Advanced Precast Australia.

### Intelligent solutions

Beyond the mural, the project's façade presented additional complexity during manufacture in the form of a distinctive brick-inlay design. The architectural interpretation of the weaving pattern is found in the podium, which acts as the metaphorical basket that contains the building above. The brickwork detailing reflects the methodology and technique used to achieve the woven structure. The pattern and form enhance the permeability of the building, encouraging visual engagement and connection between the broader and resident communities.

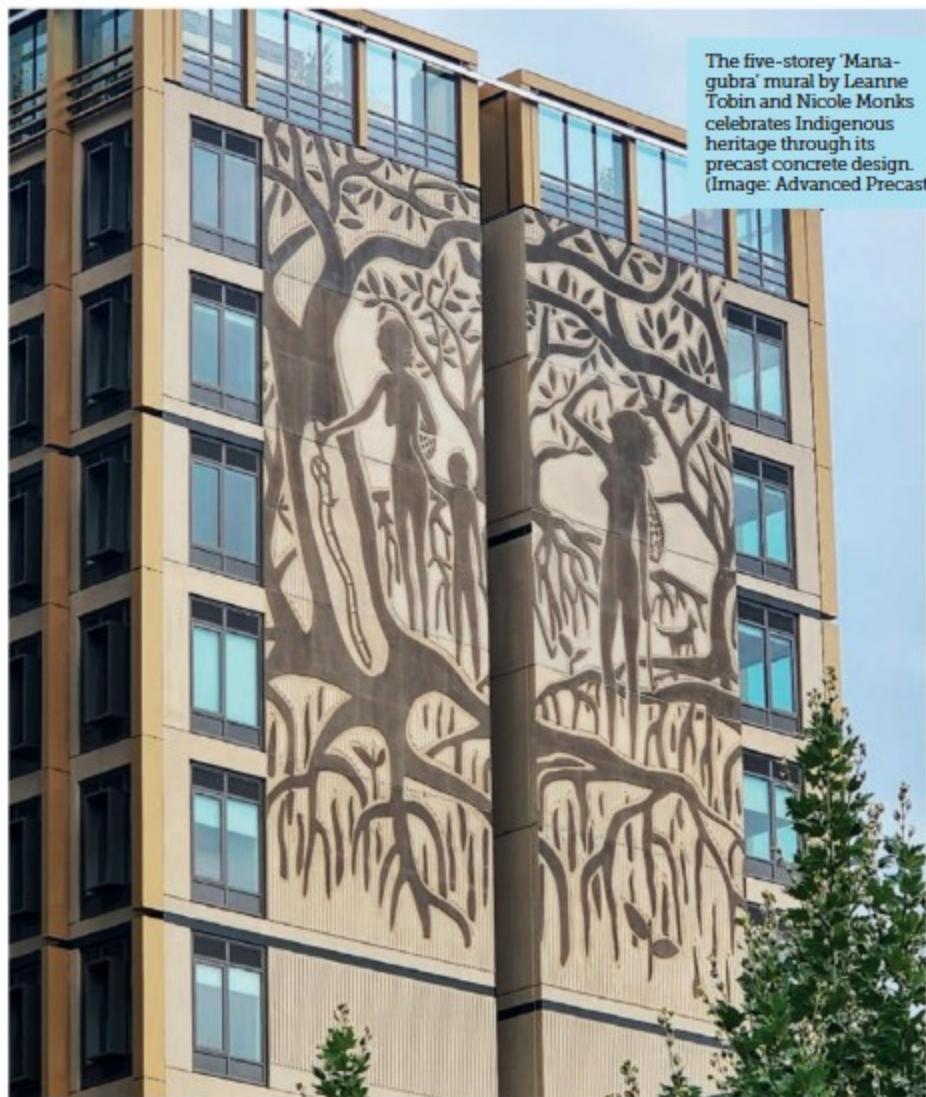
Featuring three brick types, each varying in thickness, colour and projection, the façade required a tailored approach to maintain architectural integrity and buildability.

Rather than treating each precast panel as a bespoke unit, Advanced Precast devised a repeatable system using 120 modular brick templates. These were mirrored and rotated across nearly 100 precast components, which included load-bearing columns, spandrels and double-height panels.



Wee Hur Y Suites on Margaret combines cultural expression and contemporary design. (Image: Advanced Precast)

The five-storey 'Mana-gubra' mural by Leanne Tobin and Nicole Monks celebrates Indigenous heritage through its precast concrete design. (Image: Advanced Precast)



By Cadell Taye, CEO of National Precast. (Image: National Precast)



"Our modular brickwork strategy ensured we preserved the architectural intent while streamlining manufacturing, transportation and installation," explains Foster. "It's a great example of how precast can deliver complexity with control. This kind of modular innovation is something we see as scalable for future developments – it's precast thinking that meets architectural ambition."

### The power of precast

Wee Hur Y Suites on Margaret highlights the power of precast concrete to achieve architectural quality, cultural sensitivity and construction efficiency. Through its design language, community-focused amenities and construction approach, the project reflects the evolution of purpose-built student accommodation in New South Wales. ■■

**Project**  
Wee Hur Y Suites on Margaret

**Location**  
Redfern, NSW 2016

**Master Precaster**  
Advanced Precast

**Architect**  
Antoniades Architects

**3D CNC Design**  
The Blue Print

**Public Artwork**  
Leanne Tobin

**Curator**  
Nicole Monks