

GARDEN OF AUSTRALIAN DREAMS

National Museum of Australia, Canberra, ACT

Project Details:

Garden of Australian Dreams, National Museum of Australia

Location: Canberra, ACT

Developer/Contractor:

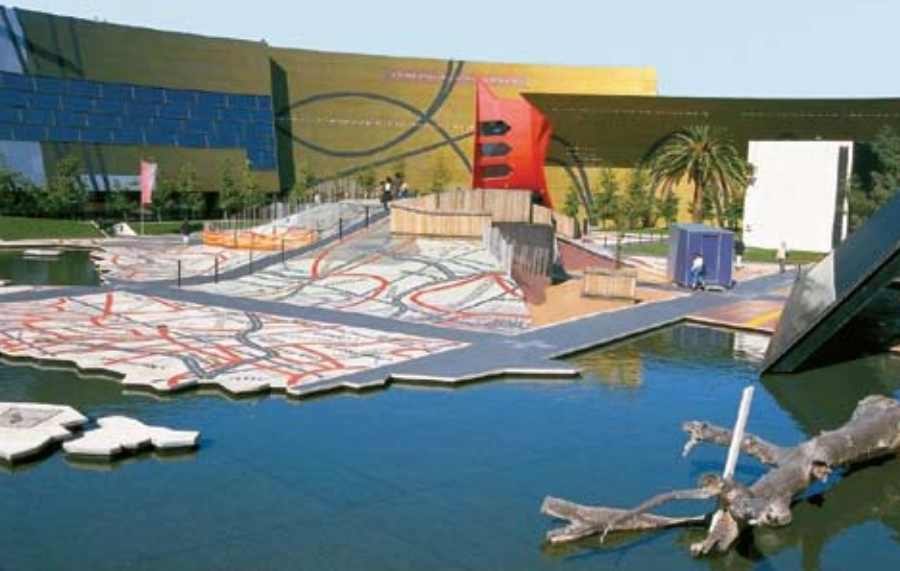
- Owner/Developer – Department of Communications
- Architects – Ashton Raggatt McDougall, Robert Peck von Hartel Trethowan
- Landscape Architects – Room 4.1.3 Pty Ltd
- Contractor – Urban Contractors Pty Ltd (Action Peninsula Alliance)
– Texcrete (Parchem Construction Supplies) ACT

Product: Stamp, Resurfacing and Concrete Stains



What product was used and why?

The project is an excellent example of the extensive range of surface treatments that can be combined and applied to produce the desired result. The colours have been achieved by applying a range of products from Parchem Construction Supplies to the surface of the concrete ground slab. Various finishes including broomed, stamped, painted, stained and sprayed surfaces add further relief to the surface. The normal stamped finishes also incorporate both human and animal imprints representing the marks we make on the landscape as we move across it.



Winner of the Public
Domain Awards 2002/03
Precincts Category.

Where is the location of the project?
Canberra ACT

Project Scope:

What was the project brief/intention? Why did they use this product/colour combination etc

Charged with documenting Australia's popular culture through the themes of Land, People and Nation, the museum metaphorically reaches out to the broader cultural landscape of the nation through two noteworthy features, the Uluru Axis and the Garden of Australian Dreams.

The Garden of Australian Dreams is fundamentally a map of Australia based on two main maps (a standard English language map of Australia and Horton's map of the tribal boundaries of indigenous Australia) along with many others such as electoral boundaries, road maps and the Wik land claim. The garden is a richly patterned and written concrete surface connecting the National Museum of Australia and the Gallery of First Australians suggesting a shared cartography between different land use practices and different cultural interpretations of property and place. Visitors can walk on the map and read the complex layers of information interwoven into the surface.

Performance:

The design demonstrates the remarkable characteristics of concrete, and the finishes and forms that can be achieved with a material that can be moulded into any shape, yet harden to form a durable and structural element within the built environment.



For further product information please call our Decorative Concrete Surfaces Division on **1300 737 787**.

Testimonial/Quotes:

On 12 March 2001 Mr. John Howard, the Prime Minister of Australia, opened the National Museum of Australia.

Judges Comments

The challenging boldness of this project in both vision and execution has advanced thinking about ideas and form in landscape architecture nationally and internationally – a clear winner in this year's field. The Garden of Australian Dreams is about emergent senses of place, about writing, mapping, imaging, reading and singing the country. This is an extraordinary landscape work that breaks new ground in expressing landscape concepts through the use of concrete forms.

The creative, even visionary use of concrete on this landmark project have advanced technology and presented challenging new possibilities for the material. The Garden of Australian Dreams is full of both obvious and arcane references. It tells stories of Australia with wit and humour. The garden is concerned to find a space between the popular and the academic, the virtual and the real, the political and the poetic, the playful and the serious.

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