

PRESS RELEASE

333 George Street tops out as Grimshaw's first commercial building in Sydney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grimshaw Architects today celebrates the construction milestone of its first commercial building in Sydney - 333 George Street - with a topping out ceremony hosted by Charter Hall and Watpac.

Distinguished guests included, the Hon. Andrew Constance MP, NSW Minister for Transport & Infrastructure, David Harrison, Managing Director & Group CEO, Charter Hall and Nick Sacley, General Manager, Watpac Construction.

Rising from the heritage precinct of Martin Place and with three street frontages, 333 George Street has been designed to create a unique and acclaimed corporate destination; an elegant landmark that reflects the legacy of its historic setting and public prominence.

Lead design architect, Grimshaw (together with executive architect for documentation, Crone) sought to maximize the experience of the building's situation on the intersection of Martin Place and George Street; a building of compact proportions; elegantly modelled by sunlight, with floor plates that cantilever and progressively curve as they seek immediacy with the heritage buildings and its address to Regimental Square.

Grimshaw Partner, Andrew Cortese said, "The design delivers an elegant building where the constraints of the site are realised as distinct features which combine to provide a workplace of unique amenity and identity that reflects the character and distinction of its prominent locale."

The result is a space like no other; a finely detailed crystalline office building, without structural constraint, culminating in a series of cascading landscaped terraces that extend the workplace to enjoy its prospect over Martin Place.

Inside, the 15 levels of office floors are designed for maximum flexibility; for collaboration along its perimeter, and with provision for interconnecting voids to enable the creation of compact and vertical campus style work spaces.

Surrounded by 19th century sandstone and trachyte buildings, George Street is also being established as Sydney's most premier retail precinct, and with the introduction of light rail, as the preeminent public realm of the city.

At the junction between Wynyard, Town Hall and Martin Place, the redevelopment of 333 George Street seeks to capture and animate this energy to inspire the activity within.

The retail base of the buildings is defined by a sequence of three storey high fluted sandstone columns, adding to the street level experience and extending the stone craftsmanship that has given such distinction to the heritage buildings.

Charter Hall Fund Manager, Craig Newman, said: "333 George Street will provide its occupants with an unrivalled opportunity to experience a highly efficient and inspiring workplace. High performance glazing, rainwater harvesting and recycling as well as monitoring of energy use will minimise the building's environmental impacts and provide a workspace that enhances employee wellbeing and comfort."

Built to a 5 Star Green Star Energy Rating, 333 George Street features a host of Ecologically Sustainable Development initiatives to enhance the project's environmental performance and optimisation.

The transformation of 333 George Street began with a City of Sydney Design Excellence Competition, seeking to replace the existing 1970's structure. Its completion is expected by October 2016.

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About Grimshaw

Grimshaw was founded by Sir Nicholas Grimshaw in 1980. The practice became a Partnership in 2007 and operates worldwide with offices in London, New York, Melbourne, Sydney and Doha. Grimshaw's international portfolio covers all major sectors and has been honoured with over 150 international design awards including the prestigious Lubetkin Prize.

Grimshaw's Sydney studio was established in 2010 by Andrew Cortese and is currently supported by more than 80 staff.

Commercial projects

333 George Street adds to Grimshaw's Commercial portfolio which includes 699 Bourke Street (2015) in Australia, The St Botolph Building (2010) and Lloyds Banking Group Headquarters (2002) in the United Kingdom, and Five Boats (2005) and Ludwig Erhard Haus (1998) in Germany.

Grimshaw is currently working on 664 Collins Street – the sister building to 699 Bourke Street – and 477 Collins Street in Melbourne, Australia.

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