



## Commendation 88 George St Sydney, NSW

Client – Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority  
Architect (and entry submission) – Terroir Pty Ltd  
Principal Engineer – Simpson Design Associates  
Principal Contractor – Hooker Cockram Projects (NSW) Pty Ltd  
Specialist Concrete Contractor – Norcrete Concrete Services Pty Ltd  
Main Concrete Supplier – Boral

### Overview

The State heritage-listed building at 86-88 George Street is made up of two interconnected warehouses. The public space sits at one of the most difficult corners in central Sydney – the intersection of George Street and Hickson Road.

The previous corner site was a flat plane with a single level change on the Hickson Road edge. For the redevelopment, a place-based mapping process was employed, resulting in the site being recast not within its own context but in terms of the greater city. As a result, new levels have been introduced which enable 'connection' across the nearby harbour, while also softening the impact of the perimeter traffic.

Overlaid with the place analysis was another layer of functional mapping, including access requirements for people with disabilities and the provision of viable seating spaces for the tenant.

These mapping processes have fused into a singular object – a sculpted concrete podium – which addresses both spatial connectivity, public accessibility and a greater political agenda to address the place to all citizens and not just the adjacent tenancy.

The selection of concrete arose from an observation of the residual materiality of public spaces within The Rocks, rather than defaulting to a fiction in which sandstone pavers and wrought iron handrails take centre stage.

### Judges Comments

The small size of this historic urban site belies the complexity of the challenge it presents. Despite this, the design uses the essential qualities of concrete to maximum effect, resolving complex levels and geometries, skillfully employing scale and plasticity to create a place from what could have been, merely a space. A welcome contemporary solution to the challenges of this historic precinct.



## Commendation National Foods Melbourne, Vic

Client – Equiset – Grollo Group  
Landscape Architect (and entry submission) – EDAW/AECOM  
Architect – F2 Architecture  
Principal Engineer – Meinhardt  
Artist – Andrew Rogers  
Principal Contractor – Equiset – Grollo Group  
Specialist Concrete Contractor – Upgrade Commercial Interiors

### Overview

The public realm of 737 Bourke Street is anchored and sustained by a fluid and organic concrete form, wrapping and warping between seat, wall, barrier and connector.

Through the contained yet open plaza and the varied shaping of the form, EDAW's aim was to maintain a dynamic connection between the old and the new, and to make adequate provision for the occasional crowds from nearby Etihad Stadium as well as providing the intimacy and detail appropriate to the solitary user.

The form of the wall caters for this in terms of seating, protection and

direction, and the detailing of the site is carefully considered.

Central to the scheme, the plinth wall evolved in response to key design and environmental requirements. In an urban sense it 'holds the corner' of the site, containing and defining the forecourt, allowing key pedestrian movements and desire lines.

At an urban climate level it buffers strong winds blowing up Bourke Street and consequently provides considered and protected outdoor seating zones.

### Judges Comments

Concrete's plasticity is employed to maximum effect in this small but complex urban space, dramatized by careful finishing and subdued colour to create a place of surprising sensuousness and respite. This project demonstrates the value that great design brings to small spaces by its masterful control of simplicity and complexity.

