LA PEROUSE HEADLAND COASTAL WALK & LOOP ROAD PROJECT, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Located on the northern shore of Botany Bay, La Perouse Headland provides spectacular cliff-top views across the bay and out to sea. The headland covers 4.8ha and is one of the most significant heritage sites in Australia. It is where French explorer La Perouse landed 6 days after the first fleet from Britain. In addition the headland is of great significance to Aboriginal people who have occupied the area for thousands of years.

A combination of heavy use and inadequate infrastructure had led to a planning dilemma for the headland. With uncontrolled parking along the Loop Road around the headland, Randwick City Council decided to upgrade the area and engaged Conkey Consulting to prepare an initial concept. Detailed design and documentation of the agreed concept was then carried out by a multi-disciplinary team led by Conkey Consulting, which included environmental engineers (Taylor Thomson & Whittington), geotechnical engineers (Douglas Partners) and heritage engineers (ANTAEC).

Key elements of the project include:
- Construction of a 500m section of a wide Coastal Walk that provides safe and accessible facilities for pedestrians with spectacular cliff-top views;
- Provision of pedestrian crossings from the Coastal Walk to the coastal area of National Park;
- Development of a one-way section of road with medians/berms at each end and a 2-way section in front of the commercial centre.
COASTAL WALK

- Creation of 220 meter pedestrian space.
- Installation of 549 pre-cast concrete footpath elements line the footpath to provide a variety of seating and seating areas where design elements.
- Replanted Indigenous vegetation of coastal areas and hard stands to provide additional habitat and a visually diverse and attractive coastal landscape.
- Creation of outdoor dining areas for two- and three-course meals associated with the Headland.

The design enhances the setting of heritage attractions and sites on La Perouse Headland while avoiding visually confusing them.

Visitors to the Headland enjoy experiencing, picnicking, walking, cycling, fishing, sailing and visiting the Museum.

The new section of Coastal Walk forms a key component of the path system that will ultimately provide a continuous pedestrian access between Russell Headland and Botany Bay. It will also connect to the proposed Botany Bay Trail as part of the Sydney Metropolitan Regional Recreation Trail Framework.

The design intent was to capture the distinctive colors of Sydney’s coastal sandstone that occurs along the coastal cliffs. This was achieved through the use of pre-cast concrete elements that allow the control of form, dimensions, colour and texture to create an attractive and distinctive new visual character for the Headland.

The highly effective coastal environment created by stoop required careful selection

PICS WALLCRETE is a very advanced lightweight render, designed and manufactured to recreate the natural products used in walling and construction.

PICS WALLCRETE can be used to create stone walls, fireplace surrounds, sculptures, large rocks, water features or monuments and is an excellent choice for stone restoration projects. It gives the impression of beautifully hand carved stone, stacked sandstone, flint, slate or brick.

PICS WALLCRETE takes decorative walling to new heights.
COASTAL WALK

Concrete was selected because of its durability and minimal maintenance requirements. Nearly 700 precast concrete elements were used in the project to form a series of urban elements that include bollards, wheelchair-usable curbs, and sections of paths.

Precast bollards allowed the original open views from the headland to be maintained while providing seating along the full length of the Coastal Walk. The bollards also provide a separation between vehicular and pedestrian areas while allowing movement between them.

Coloured concrete was used on the Coastal Walk to provide a robust and low-maintenance pavement. Coloured concrete defines a transition space between the use of bollards and wheelchair-usable curbs.

The Coastal Walk is a significant new recreation facility that is heavily used for walking and jogging by local residents as well as visitors, which contributes to their health and sense of well-being. Upgrading curved seating areas with adorning a portion of one of the multi-levels that is used for seating but also provides a small barrier to protect an existing playground.

The design provides for future connections to the central areas of National Park. The new section of Coastal Walk provides the opportunity for the National Parks Service to extend an information and interpretation system in the future that relates to cultural heritage values of the Headland.

By leading the multi-disciplinary design team responsible for this project, Coates Consulting has demonstrated the key role that landscape architects can play in successfully applying creative design thinking to a major infrastructure project, which typically would not be led by engineers, to achieve a distinctive and enjoyable urban design outcome with multiple benefits.

"The public design solution created by Coates Consulting not only meets all the functional requirements of the project but has created a distinctive and interactive public open space facility that has become a landmark of the Randwick, City Council local government area."

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