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Frederick Irwin Anglican School Chapel, WA

The Frederick Irwin Anglican School is located in the Mandurah suburb of Meadow Springs, Western Australia. Founded in 1991 with just 175 students, The Frederick Irwin Anglican School now provides primary and secondary education for 1,530 students from kindergarten age through to year 12.

Designed by Chris Oakley (Oakley Architecture), the Frederick Irwin Anglican School is in the process of planning the construction of a new Chapel, called “The Rush Chapel”. Comprising a 350 person Chapel including mezzanine, Chaplain’s office, meeting room, teaching space, storage, toilet facilities and a quiet garden, the new “Rush Chapel” will soon represent the soul of the Frederick Irwin Anglican School. Drawing inspiration from Frederick Irwin’s significant contribution to the historic “Rush Church” – the Swan River Colony’s first church built in December 1829, Chris Oakley enlisted the services of renowned Perth-based artists Jillian Ciemitis and Debbie Oakley to bring his vision to life.

Working within the historical and thematic context of the Rush Church, the artists developed a number of public art conceptual designs with botanic references. These included rushes, plants and trees as the basis for both the textile and structural components. From here, Jillian’s concept of “Rising Rushes” was born - a large scale work of art on the main walls of the Chapel which are to pay homage to the rushes that were laid to fabricate the walls of the original Rush Church back in 1829. The design of the skyward reaching “Rising Rushes” was also symbolic for spiritual ascension.

With the “Rising Rushes” conceptual art designs well underway, Jillian set about finding the best method to transpose her photographic works-of-art on to the precast walls of the Chapel. The textured decorative finish needed to be visible, yet subtle, so the art would not be a visual distraction for the congregation, but serve as a “watermark” effect on the precast walls. This design consideration was also intended to give the Chapel a timeless quality. Having recently met with Wayne McCormick (BDM – Architectural Products) at Delta Group’s precast yard to discuss the latest in decorative concrete technologies, Chris Oakley suggested Jillian take a closer look at Delta’s graphic concrete™ cast samples.

[continued next page]



The “Rising Rushes” Design by Jillian Ciemitis. Panels cast by The Delta Group.



A Collaborative Team Effort! (L to R): Justin Pratten (Delta), Jamie Brown (Delta), Darren Boddy (Delta), Wayne McCormick (Delta), Debbie Oakley (Artist), Jillian Ciemitis (Artist), Chris Oakley (Oakley Architecture) and Martin Ives (Reid).



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Project Case Study



Available through Reid across Australia and New Zealand, graphic concrete™ is an innovative decorative concrete technology which produces patterns, images, photos and works of art on concrete. The decorative finish is achieved by utilising the contrast between the exposed aggregate and smooth textures using a special membrane printed with a surface retarder “ink”. Whilst graphic concrete™ is suitable for use on conventional “grey” concrete mixes, utilising custom concrete mix designs or recipes can achieve either vivid or subtle contrasts by specifying cement oxides (or pigments), as well as changing up the colour and size of the aggregates in the mix. When Jillian Ciemitis dropped into Delta’s precast yard in September 2014, it was quickly evident that graphic concrete™ technology ticked all of the boxes.

Immediately following the Delta visit, Jillian contacted the Reid office in Melbourne to learn more about using graphic concrete™ technology. What emerged from here, was a collaborative team effort between architect, artist, precaster and supplier resulting in the delivery of graphic concrete™ membranes to the team at Delta Group in July, 2015

As Wayne McCormick (Business Development Manager) at Delta Group explains, “we are always looking for new challenges and ways to take our Architectural precast to a new level. After discovering the graphic concrete™ technology we were very excited at the possibilities it presented. Full credit to the design team at Fredrick Irwin for taking inspiration from the viewing of a sample and converting it into a vision for the Chapel. Being the first project of it’s kind in Perth, we relied heavily on the assistance and experience of Reid in Melbourne, and the Graphic Concrete team located in Finland who have been very supportive throughout the project. The outcome was fantastic.”

With construction of the new Chapel at The Frederick Irwin Anglican School commencing in March 2015, completion of the ‘Rush Chapel’ is scheduled for April 2016.

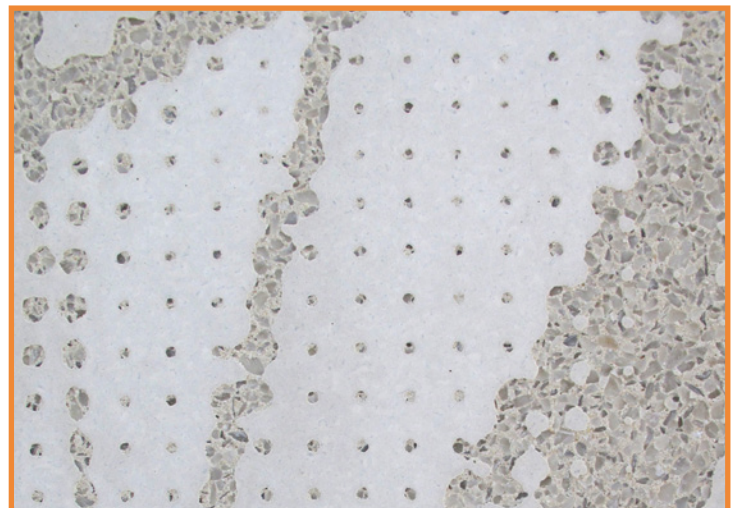


graphic concrete™ membranes arrive at the Delta Group’s precast yard.



Jillian Ciemitis inspects the “Rising Rushes” membranes supplied by Reid.

Location: Mandurah, Western Australia
Completion: 2016
Client: Frederick Irwin Anglican School
Architect: Oakley Architecture
Artist/Designer: Jillian Ciemitis
Precaster: The Delta Group
Technology: Reid graphic concrete™
GCArt&Design™



Up close: The subtle contrast of exposed aggregates with smooth textures.



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