

03 Design elements

Active frontages

In order to maximise the space dedicated to public, the footprint of the building is kept to a minimum. Additional floor space is achieved at higher levels by cantilevering the building out parallel to the elevated freeways resulting in a dramatic building form and commercial floor plates of exceptional quality.

An alternative response could have been a taller building, which would severely compromise the overshadowing of the children's playground at Darling Quarter, or a building with a larger footprint which would severely reduce the area of public realm. Both alternatives were investigated but were considered unacceptable by the design team.

The facade of the building at ground level is specifically designed to engage with the waterfront and soften the visual impact of the Western Distributor overhead. The ground level, with a floor to ceiling height of over 3.5 m, reduces the apparent scale of the freeway and provides a pedestrian friendly and continuously activated frontage for the length of the building from the end of the Darling Quarter development to the beginning of Cockle Bay Wharf.

The ground floor tenancies will all be accessible on-grade without reliance on steps or ramps. The facade undulates in and out creating pocketed areas for outdoor dining away from the general flow of pedestrian traffic. The entries to the main commercial lobby and upper level function areas are located to the east of the building adjacent a new landscaped drop-off zone and plaza. This will give visual presence and increase the quality to the eastern gateway to the site which currently looks like the "back door" or service entry to the precinct.



Retail frontage to Darling Harbour.
Imagery by HASSELL

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External cinema screen

To the west of the building, above the proposed IMAX Cinema entrance lobby and facing the new enlarged public event space is proposed a large external screen.

It is envisioned this screen would be used for public movie screening, performances, or televised events such as the Olympic Games or the Soccer World as well as identification and business naming signage for the cinema tenant, public announcements (including government authorities), and selected use by SHFA for event promotion.

The viewing angles will be controlled so as not to contravene RMS guidelines regarding animated signage visible from roadways.



Event screen & retail facade.
Imagery by HASSELL

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Materials and finishes

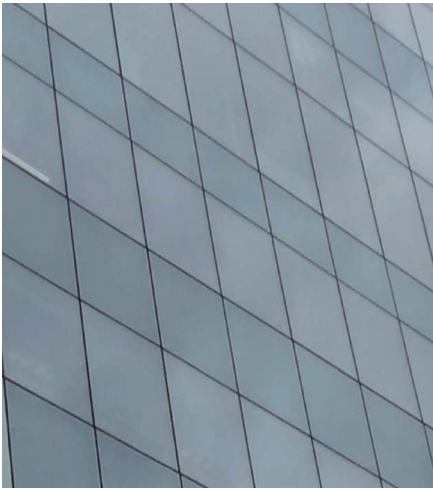
The facade material of the Ribbon is proposed to be white glass IGUs in varying levels of transparency within a triangulated grid-shell structural frame. This will achieve the desired “glow” for the building occupants internally during the day, and externally at night.

The main façade (north and south elevations) of the office tower is proposed to be clear glass within a high performance, triple glazed curtain wall system with integrated louvred blinds. The system will achieve high visible light transparency levels and low reflectivity levels. The façade framing will be white aluminium.

The façade to the podium levels on the north, west and east will be operable glass louvres, giving the form texture, and capturing the light from different angles. An operable louvred facade will eliminate the need for drop down plastic curtains, awnings or other external devices in the event of inclement weather. This cladding also has the effect of catching the light as you move around the building, a subtle reference to sunlight dancing on the harbour.

The southern side of the podium, adjacent the lower freeway will be clad with a low reflective, darker and subdued toned material such as natural zinc and painted aluminium composite panels. All plant rooms will be screen from view by two-way aluminium extruded louvres in a colour matching the surrounding cladding.

The upper levels of the podium, containing the Function Centre and Gymnasium fuse with the façade treatment of the commercial office. Ground floor retail and commercial office lobby facades will be clear glass.



CW:01

High performance triple glazed curtain wall facade with integral venetian blind (white)

Location: Main building facade



GL:01

High performance frameless glazing

Location: Ground level entry facade - Function, Office, IMAX



CL:01

Metal Cladding

Colour: Charcoal

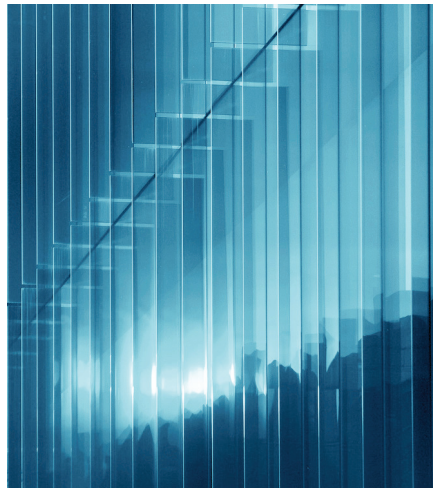
Location: Back of house areas



CW:02

High performance insulated double glazed curtain wall

Location: The Ribbon facade



GL:02

High performance glazing with vertical screen

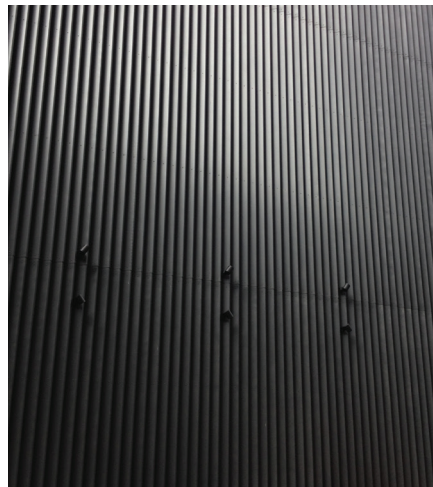
Location: Retail facade



CW:03

High performance frameless glazed louvre curtain wall

Location: Winter garden



LV:01

Powdercoated Louvers

Colour: Charcoal / White

Location: Plant areas