



Australian-American Memorial

Category:
AUSTRALIAN STONE
Best Civic Project

Project:
Australian-American Memorial, Russell, ACT

Architecture:
HBO + EMTB

Designer:
Alastair Falconer

Builder/Developer:
Able Landscaping

Stone Supplier:
Capricorn Sandstone

Stone:
Approximately 30m³ select Capricorn Buff Sandstone, large format paving, step treads and risers, and plinth

Stone Fixer:
Rock Solid

The Australian-American War Memorial, located in Canberra, commemorates the role of the United States in World War II. The 78 metre high monument was commissioned in 1952 following an appeal for finances by Prime Minister Robert Menzies. The Australian public donated \$63,000. The final cost of the memorial was \$100,000.


Sydney-based architect Richard M Ure won the design following a national competition. A stylised American eagle sits atop the column which is located near one of the three nodes of the parliamentary triangle, in sight of Parliament House. The eagle was produced by the distinguished sculptor Paul Beadle

Capricorn Sandstone recently supplied a large quantity of select large format Capricorn Buff sandstone which was used to completely replace the existing paving. The robust, buff coloured sandstone was

specified because of its colour consistency and durability. The material has been used to form steps and the plinth for the mounting which holds the commemorative ring.

The inscription on the memorial reads:

In grateful remembrance of the vital help given by the United States of America during the War in the Pacific 1941-45
Unveiled by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
February 16th 1954

The original project took one year to complete. Richard Nixon, the then Vice President of the United States paid a special visit during the early construction phase. Capricorn Sandstone products have garnered a number of prestigious export awards. 

Photos Courtesy of Alastair Falconer