

AGGA DESIGN AWARD WINNER –
COMMERCIAL OVER \$50K



West End Brewery Now On Show

> Photography Lyndon Stacy, Text by Tim Roberts

The West End Brewery project was amply rewarded during the AusFenex16 conference, with its many virtues celebrated by the judges. Against tough competition in this category, Construction Glazing's West End Brewery Façade upgrade was chosen for its technical expertise, heritage sensitivity and visual impact.

The project called for a combination of speciality skills and expertise in both the design and construction to ensure maximum impact was achieved in the renovation of this Adelaide icon. High light-transmittance glazing systems were incorporated throughout the façade and were highly commended by the judging panel – a perfect choice to show off the 77-year-old brewing kettle, which now forms the focus of this much-loved building.

The West End Brewery project also won accolades for its use of toughened and laminated internal barrier glazing, which complements the overall design by enhancing the visitor experience during the increasingly popular factory tours. The overall crisp lines of the façade glazing drew significant praise from the judges, who commended Construction Glazing on this expertly executed and beautifully finished project.

Tim O'Sullivan, Customer Sales Manager with Construction Glazing, explains the challenges and rewards of being part of the process of rejuvenating and transforming this historic structure.

'When we began work on the West End Brewery Façade, we were delighted to be working with local South Australian builder, McMahon Services, who have a long history and extensive experience with local projects,' says Tim.

'We also had the pleasure of seeing McMahon Services pick up the MBA Award for their work on the same building. Receiving these awards and industry recognition makes us all extremely proud – it's a real honour to be involved in such a high-profile restoration.'

As you might expect, there were many challenges involved with such a complex undertaking. The largest of these by far on this project was the restricted onsite access. 'We had to work with a full-height hoarding for the entire project, which concealed the project from the public eye but also gave us limited room to move,' Tim explains.

'The exterior façade was printed with a two-storey-high artist's impression of the building. We had to painstakingly manoeuvre every one of those glass panels over the hoarding, then carefully position them in behind the scaffolding on the other side.'

The many challenges were only overcome with careful planning and a lot of painstaking effort. 'One of the project's major aspects was the antique (but still operational) copper brewing vat, which forms the centrepiece of this new renovation,' says Tim.

Detailed collaboration was the key to the project's success. 'From the beginning, Construction Glazing worked closely with McMahon Services and their team of structural engineers to design a glass façade that showed off the brewery's impressive heritage, as well as serving as a focal point for the area.'

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The visually impressive and technically demanding façade incorporates 3000mm x 1500mm glass panels coupled with recycled red bricks and Alucobond cladding, reflecting this West End site’s industrial heritage as a major Australian brewer with an important place in the state’s history.

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‘Fortunately, we were able to meet the project’s performance criteria by using a Cardinal Low-E i89 glass in a toughened laminate, produced by local company Chevron Glass. Construction Glazing also supplied and installed the internal glass balustrades to the new walkways accessed daily by the public and tourist groups. The balustrades feature a toughened laminated clear glass, also manufactured locally by Chevron Glass.’

More challenges were to come. ‘Due to the minimal tolerances available for this method of glazing, we had to be meticulous with our surveying, set-out, and installation of the spider fittings and perimeter framing,’ Tim recalls. ‘Each fitting had to be individually drilled, tapped, packed and fixed by Construction Glazing on site; the methodical accuracy made installing the glass panels a surprisingly quick process, with minimal crane time required. Construction Glazing’s senior site supervisor Daryl McClory had a pivotal role in this area, using his years of experience to ensure install and sequencing met the project time frames and constraints.’

To ensure the project’s success, the Construction Glazing installation team worked tirelessly to overcome the challenges of a confined workspace in a busy and fully operational brewery and tourist facility. Their work was in close proximity to the busy main entry, and frequent vehicle access delivering supplies to the brewery site was a constant during the lengthy construction stage.

Forming the centrepiece of its surroundings, the West End Brewery now fulfils a vital dual purpose as a working brewery and a major tourist draw-card. Congratulations to Construction Glazing for their dedication to bringing this dream to fruition. **CA**

