



Project

Maroochydore Government Office Building,
12 First Avenue, Maroochydore, Qld.

Architect

Chris Klar, Project Services (Government),
Sunshine Coast Region

Façade Contractor

G James Glass and Aluminium

Builder

Hutchinson Builders

Pandanus Tree Imagery

DigiGlass Australasia



Looking up to the Pandanus Tree

text by Jonathan Atchison,
photography by Glen Weiss Photography, Jamie Lawson & Roxanne Harris (Project Services)

When undertaking the design and construction of the first commercial high rise building on the Sunshine Coast, the expectations were for a structure that works within the standards set by the stunning natural surrounds.

And, located in the the civic heart of Maroochydore providing 8,600m² of government office accommodation and a one-stop-shop for State Government services, equally important is the buildings ability to evoke positivity from the local community.

“One of our aims was to make sure that

it fitted well within the environment, and architectural ‘good manners’ ensured it was well received by the community,” explained Chris Klar, Project Architect.

“The end result is a visually stunning, 6 Star Green Star® certified building that has been received brilliantly by the local area.”

Costing more than \$70m and taking more than 4 years to complete, the building was designed to maximize energy and water efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a healthy indoor environment.



The building's fresh air supply is 150% above that required under Australian Standards, daylight is harvested to minimise energy use, all finishes are low-VOC and there is a 60kw photovoltaic array on the roof.

It really is an amazing feat of design and engineering. But ask the majority of locals and regularly passers by and they are largely unaware of these 'hidden' features.

To them, the most impressive part of this building is much more superficial; it's the 'window dressing'.

"Without a doubt the DigiGlass façade is the visual signature piece of the building... It's fabulous. It was placed specifically around areas of the building that people would recognize from a distance. People are always commenting; 'Oh, you're in the building with the Pandanus Tree on it'," said Chris.

"Consistent with the aim to embed itself in the local environment, it was important to use materials, form and imagery from the Sunshine Coast. The use of DigiGlass was a response to these aims".

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“Images of Pandanus trees were chosen as they are such a key part of the local environment, and would be clearly recognisable.

“The final images were extracted from photographs taken locally by Roxanne Harris from our office and modified by Roxanne to produce images that are both architectural and artistically rendered”.

“We chose DigiGlass because it is a unique technology... the level of resolution we were able to get with the artwork was essential and DigiGlass lets you express things in a visual medium in a way that other products cannot” he said.

John Witney, National Sales Manager, DigiGlass Australasia, believes the end result is an outstanding example of the DigiGlass product and is the outcome of a close collaboration between Project Services and DigiGlass. “The most challenging part of the production process is the artwork and sampling

required. To achieve the level of quality that is on display at Maroochydore the artwork needs to be of the highest possible standard”.

“The building is on the main waterfront and the views are absolutely first class ... it’s only a short walk from the office to the water”.

“In terms of the façade, right from the beginning Project Services had a vision to display something special that spoke to the local community. Due to the unique challenges that the building presented, DigiGlass was the logical selection for them. No other product can offer the presentation or quality achieved in this project.

The Maroochydore project specifically used 13.52 heat strengthened polar white DigiGlass laminate.

“From our point of view we love it... we couldn’t be happier with the outcome,” John said.

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