

The High Court of Australia and The National Gallery of Australia



Sustained By Galvanized Reinforcement

Sector: Galvanized Reinforcement
Environment: Low corrosive, Cold, Moist
Subject: Galvanized reinforcement in the High Court and National Gallery of Australia



The High Court at Completion, 1980



The Architect, Col Madigan, in front of the High Court during Construction.

Before: The High Court and National Gallery of Australia were built in 1980 with longevity in mind, as the design calls for a 200 year life expectancy. It was built to represent 'Australian history... and the challenges of contemporary life'. The concrete used was laid 'in situ' using white cement to create a soft off white appearance, therefore the higher risk of rust staining was eliminated by using hot dip galvanized reinforcement. Galvanized reinforcement also reduces the risk of the concrete cracking and spalling.

After: Re-visiting the High Court 26 years after the construction of the building was completed, it is evident that the buildings are performing as expected; they are in satisfactory condition with no evidence of cracking or spalling. The pedestrian bridge which connects the buildings also made use of galvanized reinforcement and this is performing as expected. The Maintenance Manager of the High Court, Neil Gavin, stated that “throughout the building facade there is no rusting, cracking or spalling of concrete.” The excellent condition of the building façade can be attributed to the use of galvanized reinforcement in critical areas. The National Gallery Building Services Manager, Dean Marshall, stated that “there have been no problems with the façade of the building.”
The buildings today are in ideal condition, looking as they did when they were first built and as they were intended to be today.

Location: Canberra, ACT, low corrosive environment, South-East Australia, 114km inland.

Owner: Australian Government

Condition: Excellent

Attributes: Corrosion protection of concrete reinforcement
Prevents concrete cracking and spalling

Date of Galvanizing: 1980

Provided by: Galvanizers Association of Australia



The pedestrian bridge connecting the High Court and the National Gallery

Picture sourced from National Archives of Australia: A8746, KN24/3/80/8