

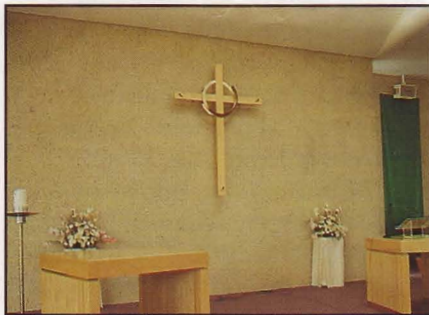
Mary MacKillop church wins tilt-up award

The Mary MacKillop Catholic Church in the Brisbane suburb of Birkdale won a prestigious award at the Concrete Institute of Australia Conference, Concrete [95] in September.

In the Judges' opinion the church building represents an appropriate and sophisticated example of tilt-up concrete construction.

The brief to the architects, Heathwood Cardillo Wilson Pty Ltd, called for an open, multi-purpose space, based primarily around the requirements of church services. Their response was to design an uncluttered building defined by twenty-one tilt-up panels arranged in a self-bracing fan shape.

Off-white concrete was used for the tilt-up panels, which feature ribbed external faces formed by casting against ribbed formliners. The internal walls were grit blasted



to give a pleasing texture and an effective low maintenance finish which complements the timber furnishings. The choice of off-white cement and light-coloured aggregates also produced a surface which reflects light beautifully, contributing to the soft, even illumination throughout the building.

Externally, this church presents a striking appearance, with the shaped tops of the tilt-up panels projecting above the roof in a series of peaks. The strong geometric design which results is an excellent example of the effective use of panel shapes and gives the church individuality and character at little extra cost.

Born out of a close collaboration between the Church, the architects,

the engineers and the builders, the Mary MacKillop Parish Church is a distinctive and successful building which is very popular with its congregation. As an example of tilt-up construction in the non-commercial arena, it is outstanding; a worthy award winner and a show-piece for what can be achieved.

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