



NRMA Building, Sydney, Australia

Area: 15,000 m² (approx)

Architects: Rice Daubney

Structural & Façade Engineers: Arup Façade Engineering

Specialist Contractor: Permasteelisa



An existing building was renovated in 1997. Rice Daubney re-designed John Andrews' 30-storey, triangular King George (American Express Tower) on one of Sydney's central intersections. Now called the NRMA Centre and 388 George Street, the new building replaced Andrews' intricate metal tower sunscreens with a brise soleil of sensor-controlled glass, which ventilates five sky gardens. Since these controversial changes, the property has been listed on the Australian Heritage Commission's Register of the National Estate.

Within the strong geometric framework of the original building, a new external truss facade system, manufactured by Hycast Metals responded to commercial, climatic and urban factors. The cast stainless steel truss elements being external, allowed the floor space internally to be maximized. It solved not only outlook, light and energy issues, but provided filigree reminiscent of the Andrews lattice, as a foil to the strength of the concrete frame.

