



LIGHTS. CAMERA. ACTION

CLIENT : Docklands Studios Melbourne and Development Victoria
MAIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY : Kane Constructions
ARCHITECT : Grimshaw Architects
ENGINEERS : WSP Australia and Integral Group Australia
CONSTRUCTION VALUE : \$40 million

The Docklands Studios Melbourne (DSM) Project involves the construction of a purpose built 3,700m² state-of-the-art, dry-hire facility for film and television production. The construction of Sound Stage 6 increases the studios stage capacity by 60% to a total stage area of 10,000m², making it one of the largest production stages within the southern hemisphere. The facility is 17.5m high internally, and offers full soundproofing, a floor loading capacity of 20KPA, along with a 900,000L subfloor tank for the filming of underwater scenes.

Sound Stage 6 is the new flagship stage for the world class studios located in the heart of Melbourne. Its combination of floor space and height, as well as a wet stage, give it features common to only a handful of stages worldwide, positioning DSM as a leading competitor with larger Australian based studios in Sydney and the Gold Coast. It is expected to attract large scale international productions.

The design of the building integrates with the architectural language of the existing buildings in the precinct and meets the high level of acoustic performance essential to the operation of the facility.

Kane Constructions was awarded the Design & Construct contract during the early design stage in September 2020, with Stage 6 reaching practical completion in February 2022. Ortech and acoustic elephant doors were used in the construction of Sound Stage 6 to control external noise.

This was particularly important given the proximity to the Citylink roadway. The acoustic performance of the building was a large focus for this project with extensive consideration given to internal reverberation control, vibration control and sound insulation.

“We used Ortech Durra panels for acoustic sound insulation. The integration of the Ortech Durra panels with the structural steelwork meant we needed close coordination with a wide range of trades in order to get the acoustic connection correct. These trades and consultants included the acoustic engineer, structural engineer, architect, steel fabricators, and the roofers and riggers onsite,” said Mark Spolidoro, Project Manager for Kane Constructions.

Ortech Durra panel is a fully certified wall and ceiling panel system that contains an engineered biomass panel core made entirely out of reclaimed wheat straw. It is 100% recyclable and biodegradable while maintaining the desired properties of acoustic and thermal control, fire resistance and durability.

The three storey annex building attached to the Sound Stage provides best practice office workspaces by promoting natural light, sun control measures, ventilation, access to outdoor spaces and a flexible open-plan working environment.

Kane Constructions had a management team of 10 personnel leading the delivery of the DSM project. At the peak of construction,

120 workers were delivering works onsite. The five existing sound stages remained operational while the project was under construction. The stage boasts three large acoustic doors that are situated at the entry. “The doors were sourced, designed and built from ACRAN in Brisbane. Sourcing materials and products outside of Melbourne was a key challenge during the peak of COVID. Shipping the doors across the border from Queensland to Victoria and then managing the installation from interstate was no exception,” Said Mark

“We had an outstanding pool of subcontractors on this project. We developed a strong collaborative working relationship from the outset right through from design through to construction.”

“Our team took pride in maintaining a collective, highly communicative, positive and effective culture. Through leadership, consultation, implementation and a ‘roll up your sleeves’ approach, our senior management team led by example and demonstrated a continued commitment to delivering positive project outcomes,” said Mark

Founded in Melbourne in 1973, Kane Constructions has grown into a multi-award winning commercial construction company with over 2,000 successfully completed projects across all industry sectors. With over 450 employees, Kane operates throughout the east coast of Australia and overseas from offices in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Canberra.

No stranger to industry accolades, Kane was awarded the 2016 and 2019 National Construction Master Builder of the Year, as well



as Master Builder of the Year in Victoria in 2016, 2017 and 2019. Recently, the \$40 million Docklands Studios Stage 6 project won the 2021 Master Builders Association of Victoria Excellence in Health and Safety Award.

Heading into 2022, the team are currently delivering several notable projects in Victoria including the \$152 million Bendigo Law Courts, \$50 million Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre (NARC), \$54 million Whitehorse Performing Arts Centre, \$18.6 million Spirit of Tasmania Passenger Terminal Building and the \$76 million Wonthaggi Hospital Expansion Project.

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