

Gordon Campus TAFE.

As Australia continues its steady growth, there is a continuing need for trained apprentices to come up through the ranks, bringing new skills and abilities to their chosen trades.

A major part of the training of bricklayers, scaffolders and plasterers is hands-on, and for this, large practical training areas are needed, and that's where Orrcon comes in.

Working with architects Lyons in Melbourne, and large fabricators H. Troon in Ballarat, plans were made for the construction of a 2,500 square metre, specialised building at the Gordon Institute of TAFE, in Geelong, south-west of Melbourne.

Described by architect Chris Millen as a "sizeable building" it had to have large practical areas without columns in the way, which meant large spans and the best way to achieve that was with steel. Steel tubulars were incorporated in the frame due to their aesthetic appeal over traditional steel sections such as universal beams.

Manufactured at its Big Tube Mill at Unanderra, south of Sydney, Orrcon RHS was primarily used in the construction of the structure's frame and roof trusses.

Mr. Millen said: "Effectively the building is broken into three bays – one each for brick laying, scaffolding and plastering – so that apprentices can build brick walls, erect scaffolding and

carry out plastering work in a large area."

He said that Lyons have also specified steel frame construction for the Kangan Batman TAFE building at Docklands, also currently under construction.

He said: "Again this is a building for apprentices requiring large open work spaces, and steel frames make this possible due to large unencumbered spans.

"The steel frame also allows for economical cladding skins to be applied much more easily, which in turn reduces construction time."

According to Justin Savage of Troon's, "We went with Orrcon tube for the structure's trusses, columns and ties because of their reputation for supplying products which meet exacting requirements. Orrcon certainly lived up to our expectations.

"All fabrication was done in our Ballarat factory, with the only difficulties associated with delivery. The trusses were 18 metres long and 4.4 metres wide, so a very wide load on the journey to the site, but nothing we have not handled before."

Orrcon's Application Specialist, Building and Construction, Mr. Lindon Flancbaum, said: "Our State Sales Manager for Victoria, Michael Connelly worked closely with Troon's early on and during the fabrication of the frame which helped the entire process run smoothly and on time.



“It is this dedication to the construction industry and large fabricators that has resulted in Orrcon’s capacity to meet the needs of ever evolving building design.

Work on the Gordon TAFE building began in September of last year, with completion expected by September this year.

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