

Orrcon Takes the Crown

The world's tallest residential tower – at 322.5 meters – and called Q1 has been built on Queensland's Gold Coast and offers sweeping views south to Byron Bay and north to Brisbane.

At night, dramatic lighting ensures that the building's stunning 'crown' is visible from many kilometres away.

And it is the crown that is attracting so much attention on this magnificent residential tower, with 526 apartments over 80 floors.

The building was conceived in the Sydney Olympic year 2000, and drew inspiration from the Olympic Torch and the Sydney Opera house. The objective was to produce a sculptural form reminiscent of these Australian icons, and a glass facade facilitated this expression.

The crown though, takes a special place. Using large RHS produced by Orrcon at their structural mill located in Wollongong, the design team at Sunland Group – owners of Q1 – produced a swirling crown that demanded great accuracy.



Once the crown steel work was delivered, steel fabrication and construction specialists Sun Engineering based at Carole Park in Brisbane began piecing together the equivalent of a gigantic jigsaw.

Sun Managing Director, Mr. Sean McMonagle, said: "We ordered \$165,000 worth of RHS from Orrcon and set to work pre-fabricating each section for the Observation Deck as well as the crown.

"We knew Orrcon had the capability to match our requirements from their involvement in other major construction projects and that they are a serious player in large pipe and tube for the construction industry."

He said: "We built each part to completion, and then had to disassemble it for loading onto trucks – with a full police escort – to travel down the Motorway from our factory to the construction site on the Gold Coast ready for work to begin by 6am each day.

"The tolerances we required on the curved sections provided by Orrcon were, by definition, much more precise, and Orrcon came through."

Mr. McMonagle said: "The crown looks like a tiara which starts low and tapers up to a peak. It is easily visible from kilometers around."

Whilst the crown had to look spectacular – the crown mast alone is 90 metres high - the construction team also had to take into account wind loads and varying weather conditions, ensuring close tolerances.

Orrcon's Application Specialist, Building and Construction, Mr. Lindon Flanbaum, said: "Working with the Q1 design team and Sun Engineering, we were able to produce RHS to their exact requirements and within specified lead times, which cut down on preparation time allowing them a little more leeway during final construction.



“It is this dedication to the construction industry needs and those of the large fabricators that has led Orrcon to establish the Building and Construction Division, which will work with the industry to meet the needs of ever evolving building design.”

The tower is located on the southern fringe of Surfers Paradise CBD, and is located at 9 Hamilton Avenue, Surfers Paradise.

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Images courtesy of the Sunland Group

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