



An Icon Restored: Remediation of Sydney GPO's Façade now Complete

The restoration project is part of The Fullerton Hotel and Resort's broader programme to re-connect locals with Sydney's most historical architectural landmark

SYDNEY, 28 April 2021: Following an extensive remediation program spanning two years and a combined 98,000 working hours, The Fullerton Hotel and Resort's remediation of the former Sydney General Post Office's (GPO) façade is now complete, restoring the 'Grand Dame' to her former glory.

Home to The Fullerton Hotel Sydney, the historic building's intricate stonework and carvings were painstakingly cleaned using a laborious, chemical-free process undertaken in a series of stages. Carried out by highly trained specialists who used steam, water and scrubbing brushes to remove accumulated layers of dirt, the objective of the project was to preserve the building's integrity and historic significance by returning the surface of sandstone to its natural patina.

With extensive experience preserving historic buildings in The Fullerton Heritage precinct in Singapore, hotel operator, The Fullerton Hotels and Resorts is committed to the preservation and conservation of the Sydney GPO building for future generations.

"As custodians of heritage, our goal is to re-connect locals and future generations with this historic gem, as well as to share its unique story with everyone who visits The Fullerton Hotel Sydney through our enhanced heritage experiences," said Cavaliere Giovanni Viterale, General Manager of The Fullerton Hotels and Resorts.

An Enhanced Heritage Experience

Since opening its doors on 18 October 2019, The Fullerton Hotel Sydney has introduced a suite of specially curated Fullerton Experiences, including its complimentary Fullerton Heritage Tours. So far, more than 1,000 guests and members of the public have participated in the tours which offer a unique opportunity to discover the bygone tales of one of Sydney's most iconic buildings, which connected Sydney to the wider world through letters, telegrams, and the lively telephone exchange.

The Fullerton Hotel Sydney is enhancing its Heritage Tours programme to feature Sydney's historic Tank Stream. Initially a small ferny creek that flowed north from swampy high ground located within the area bounded by Market, Park, Elizabeth and Pitt Streets through a small, closed valley and into the cove through a tidal estuary, the Tank Stream was a major influencing factor in Governor Arthur Phillip's choice of Sydney Cove above other bays in Port Jackson (now Circular Quay) for the site of settlement of the Colony of New South Wales in 1788.

Serving as Sydney's water supply from 1788 to 1826, a section of this historically significant infrastructure can be viewed on the lower ground floor of The Fullerton Hotel Sydney, supported by an educational audio-visual presentation and plaque.

Exclusive tours for hotel guests run on Friday and Saturday mornings at 10.00 a.m., while members of the public are invited to join the tours at 11.45 a.m.

Due to popular demand, The Fullerton Hotel Sydney has introduced mid-week Heritage Tours, with the first tour showcasing the Tank Stream's debut on Wednesday, 7 April. The Heritage Tour offers a unique and intimate experience where tour participants can engage in personalised conversation with the Heritage Tour guide. Bookings are advised through the Hotel's Concierge team, or via [email](#).

The dedicated Heritage Tours share the building's fascinating history which spans from the hallowed hallways of the historic building to the ornamental carvings on the Pitt Street façade.

Pitt Street Carvings of 1883

There are many colourful stories surrounding the GPO's intricate carvings, including those that perch above the building's Pitt Street archways. Created by Italian sculptor Tomaso Sani, the carvings depicted a



THE FULLERTON HOTEL
SYDNEY

contemporary scene: the reality of people at work, rather than the traditional inclusion of gods or goddesses more typically featured in this classically designed and important city building.

Public opinion of the carvings was so strong that there was a parliamentary enquiry debating whether they should be removed. However, Henry Parkes, the NSW Premier at the time, wrote in support of the carvings, stating: “They are creditable to the infant art of this country.”

Today, the intricate and historically significant carvings still adorn the GPO building. During the remediation and maintenance work commissioned by The Fullerton Hotels and Resorts, special attention was paid to the building’s carvings depicting subjects that represent the banking, agriculture, commerce, mining, literary, press and postal industries. The carvings represent a postman delivering a letter to a young barmaid with whom he appears to be flirting; an astronomer marking Sydney’s position on a globe; a young architect sketching a building, thought to be James Barnet who built the Sydney GPO; a professor demonstrating an experiment with an hourglass in hand; and an experienced digger pointing with satisfaction to a chunk of gold and quartz.

The Pitt Street Extension

Following the opening of Australia’s first GPO building in 1874, architect James Barnet declared that his design was only half complete, and that work was to continue onto Pitt Street. The Pitt Street extension took eleven years to complete, which at the time was described as ‘sumptuous’. The black and white Pitt Street staircase within this area of the building was famously featured in the cult nineties science fiction film, *The Matrix*, featuring Keanu Reeves.

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There is no better way to immerse yourself in Sydney’s rich heritage than indulging with a weekend stay at The Fullerton Hotel Sydney. The journey begins with a complimentary private guided heritage tour, followed by a lavish signature Fullerton Afternoon Tea, complemented with a flute of Veuve Clicquot Yellow Label Brut NV champagne. Enjoy a slice of luxury with an upgrade to a Tower Premium guest room and an extended late check out till midday. Room rates start from A\$410.

For images :

<https://fullertonhotels.sharepoint.com/:f/s/MARCOM/EmIP3060fO1Mr4OU2HPzE64B8iRLXoVELLKlOLqysCUufA?e=7KmMlk>

To view The Making of the Fullerton Hotel Sydney video click [here](#)

For more information visit: www.fullertonhotels.com/fullerton-hotel-sydney

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About The Fullerton Hotel Sydney

The Fullerton Hotel Sydney, a luxury five-star hotel located in Sydney’s historic GPO building at No. 1 Martin Place (formerly The Westin Sydney), officially opened its doors on 18 October 2019. The opening of The Fullerton Hotel Sydney marked the first international expansion of The Fullerton Hotels and Resorts, which owns and operates two award-winning hotels in Singapore - [The Fullerton Hotel Singapore](#) (opened in 2001) and [The Fullerton Bay Hotel Singapore](#) (opened in 2010). Committed to its role as a custodian of heritage, The Fullerton Hotels and Resorts brand is renowned for its dedication to preserving buildings and their stories. This tradition has continued with The Fullerton Hotel Sydney, which shares a rich heritage with its sister hotel, The Fullerton Hotel Singapore (also a former GPO).

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