

Project: MiCasa8 Student
Accommodation, Melbourne

Products: 500PLUS® BAMTEC®

Rising to the challenge of high-rise construction for student accommodation



MiCasa8 is a 219 unit student accommodation complex located in Swanston Street, Melbourne. A complete package solution developed by OneSteel Reinforcing played a major role in the fast-track construction of the \$22m building.

Built on the site of the historic Canada Hotel, the MiCasa8 is located between two of Melbourne's leading higher education institutions and houses retail and hospitality businesses, a lecture theatre and communal facilities.

Designed by award winning Architects Hayball Leonard Stent and built by Galvin Construction in just 15 months for Melbourne based property developer Mider Developments Pty Ltd, construction of MiCasa8 was completed in December 2008, two months ahead of schedule.

The use of prefabricated 500PLUS® BAMTEC® carpets and TRUSSDEK® steel decking from OneSteel Reinforcing, added significantly to construction efficiency.

Cameron Jackson, Director of leading consulting engineering firm Wallbridge and Gilbert said, "Due to a highly compressed construction program, Galvin Construction

Left: MiCasa8 Student Accommodation
Above: 500PLUS® BAMTEC® steel reinforcing carpet fabrication and the ease of unrolling on site.





“The MiCasa8 project was completed two months ahead of schedule. Utilising 500PLUS® BAMTEC® carpets from OneSteel Reinforcing helped make this possible.”

Jeremy Goodger, Project Manager for MiCasa8, Galvin Constructions.

“If we didn’t use 500PLUS® BAMTEC® carpets the steelfixers would have had to carry, lay and tie hundreds of loose bars by hand for every floor, which is labour intensive and time consuming.”

Jeremy Goodger,
Project Manager for MiCasa8,
Galvin Constructions

was keen to save time wherever possible. We suggested using both TRUSSDEK® permanent composite formwork and BAMTEC® carpets to enable this to occur.”

In Melbourne, Galvin Construction are market leaders in student accommodation construction, building in excess of 1000 student units over the past five years.

Jeremy Goodger, MiCasa8 Project Manager, Galvin Construction said, “One of the biggest advantages of using 500PLUS® BAMTEC® carpets is the simplicity and speed of installation.

“In order to achieve the completion date required by the developer, Galvin investigated a number of construction methods and options including 500PLUS® BAMTEC®,” Jeremy said.

OneSteel Reinforcing supplied 500PLUS® BAMTEC® carpets made from N16 500PLUS® REBAR spaced at 200 mm centres and delivered them to site as complete units. Once craned into place, a 500PLUS® BAMTEC® carpet is simply unrolled by two men.

“The Supply & Fix solution program developed by OneSteel Reinforcing in conjunction with the use of 500PLUS® BAMTEC® saved us a considerable amount of time on the project.

“OneSteel Reinforcing engineers Con Komselis and Micah Biggs provided excellent support and co-ordinated the Supply & Fix of the 500PLUS® BAMTEC® carpets and TRUSSDEK® permanent composite formwork. They were onsite overseeing installation and available whenever we needed them,” Jeremy said.

OneSteel Reinforcing developed a complete Supply & Fix package solution program for MiCasa8’s suspended slabs from Level 2 - 13, incorporating the design, supply and installation of TRUSSDEK®, steel decking, and prefabricated 500PLUS® BAMTEC® reinforcement carpets and structural reinforcement.

“Utilising TRUSSDEK® formwork in conjunction with 500PLUS® BAMTEC® carpets helped save us around six weeks over the course of the project, which is significant,” said Jeremy

“TRUSSDEK® and 500PLUS® BAMTEC® are excellent construction solutions. We were so impressed with them that we’re re-designing another project to utilise the system.

“Each floor incorporates seven tonnes of rebar. If we didn’t use 500PLUS® BAMTEC® carpets the steelfixers would have had to carry, lay and tie hundreds of loose bars by hand for every floor, which is labour intensive and time consuming,” Jeremy said.

As well as being an efficient system, 500PLUS® BAMTEC® benefits Occupational Health and Safety of the worksite as fewer men are needed, reducing site congestion.

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