

# Creating Concrete Finishes in Roma Street Parklands

Concrete walls flowing through Roma Street Parklands were cast *in situ*. They were deliberately constructed to achieve a cost-effective, long-lasting structural solution and to reflect the industrial history of the site (*Landscape Australia*, 2002, 24(2): 24-27).

The various wall finishes were achieved by breaking the rules of good formworking practice. Randomly shaped and spaced 16 mm plywood panels of varying surface quality were fixed to the backing formwork ply to deliberately break up the surface texture of each concrete panel. After each concrete pour, the panels were removed, then reattached in a random pattern to the next section of walling, to ensure variety.

The formworkers took an active interest in this process, as did the workers developing concrete mixes and colour solutions for the walls and paths.

Similarly, by varying the amount of release agent used to separate the formwork from the concrete, different effects were created, from leaving deep grooves in the concrete to bits of formwork stuck to the surface.

## Further Information

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The unusual concrete finishes on the concrete walls have given Roma Street Parklands a unique character (Photo © CCA).



Concrete paving and steps in the new Roma Street Parklands, Brisbane (Photo © CCA).

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