

## Sculpture in concrete commemorates Harry Seidler

Milsons Point is the site for Harry's Park, a permanent memorial to iconic architect Harry Seidler. Fittingly, the structure was as complex to build as it is beautiful to look at – providing a significant challenge to the builder and engineers who were commissioned to create it.

Harry Seidler was one of Australia's leading architects, a legendary figure who designed more than 180 buildings and won countless architectural awards throughout his 57-year career.

It is more than five years since Harry Seidler died, and now his achievements will be permanently honoured by a radical cantilevered concrete sculpture at Milson's Point in Sydney. Curving along a sinuous span of 25 metres and some 2.5 metres high, the sculpture is a complex feat of engineering and incorporates seating that offers breathtaking views of Sydney Harbour and Luna Park.

### DARING AND DIFFICULT

The sculpture was designed by Seidler & Associates and built by Mardini Constructions.

Elvis Mardini, Director of Mardini Constructions, was Master Builder of the Year 2010. He used a skilled team of 20 people to produce a perfect finish on the extremely challenging project.

"Harry's Park is a very daring, extremely difficult design and the engineering was an integral part of the design," Elvis Mardini says. "A vast amount of reinforcing was required to hold the weight of the curved concrete wall, but we

achieved a great result and retained the integrity of the design."

His biggest challenge was achieving a Class 1 concrete finish with white concrete, which is one of the most difficult types to work with because it dries quickly and the texture and consistency need to be ultra precise.

"Trying to produce a Class 1 concrete finish is probably one of the most challenging things you can do," Elvis Mardini says, "particularly because the wall was curved. But we were able to achieve a perfect finish the first time."

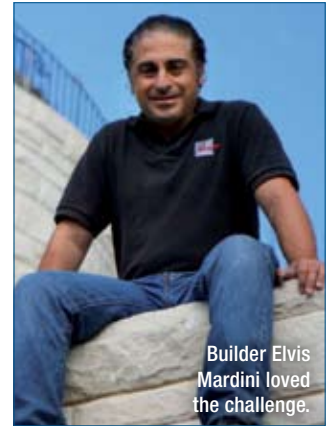
Creating a memorial for one of Australia's most iconic architects has special significance for Elvis Mardini. He aspires to do for the building industry what Harry Seidler did for architecture.

In his career so far, Mardini has developed a reputation for achieving the near impossible.

"It was a great honour being chosen to build a tribute to Harry Seidler," he says. "Growing up, he was one of my icons. I like the fact that he dared to be different."

### MILLIMETRE PRECISION

ARC (The Australian Reinforcing Company) supplied the eight tonnes of reinforcing steel required to build the structure, as well as reinforcing mesh and accessories.



Builder Elvis Mardini loved the challenge.

Ben Steele, Branch Manager of ARC Brookvale, said the sculpture's complex design required bespoke parts and high levels of precision. "Projects like this don't come along often, so it is a privilege to work on them when they do. The sculpture required 32 millimetre radial galvanised steel with curves that needed to be within 2 millimetres accuracy, which is extremely difficult," Ben says.

"There wasn't one straight surface in the sculpture and in terms of scheduling it was a highly complex design." ARC's experienced team of engineers, schedulers and bar processors manufactured the complicated radial steel reinforcing beams at its St Mary's site with steel from mills in Sydney and Melbourne.

More info: [www.arcreso.com.au](http://www.arcreso.com.au)



The curved structure as it took shape.



The work is elegant in its simplicity but complex in its engineering.