

FUTURISTIC APPLICATIONS FOR STEEL SHEET PILING



Although steel sheet piling is traditionally viewed as a material for temporary works, construction firms are now using sheet pile as permanent structures to save construction time and money.

One such application is the Holdfast Shores Development in Glenelg, South Australia done by the Holdfast Shores Consortium of which Baulderstone Hornibrook is a lead member. This involved the construction of a 60-berth boat basin in which the contractor used sheet pile supplied by Steelcom, to form a hard vertical face.

The boat basin bed level is at RL -6.0 AHD and the adjoining building levels at RL 3.0 AHD, which is achieved using sheet-piles that are also incorporated into the adjoining buildings basement structures. The sheet-piling solution provides the physical traditional dock 'look' the architects desired and also helped preserve precious land.

Another application is Babworth House, a prestigious residential development in Darling Point, NSW and the sheet-piling subcontractor is Austral Construction with sheet pile provided by Steelcom.

Australia was approached by Mainland Civil in September 2001, to provide unit rates per square metre to supply and drive approximately 2800m² of sheet piles, varying from 5m to 12m. The project has been fast-tracked. Initially, the design concept was contiguous bored piles.

Economic benefits emerged by converting a large portion of the excavation shoring to sheet piling. Timing did not permit placement of an order from mill sources. Indeed, with design 'on the run', forward ordering would have entailed great purchasing risk. Materials were sourced locally.

Steelcom was able to provide LX16 sheets from stock. Careful management was required to co-ordinate deliveries of various lengths and to balance the 'shorts and the longs' to minimise waste and avoid splicing offcuts.

The topography of the site was the most difficult Austral has worked on. Austral are in the fortunate position of having a dedicated sheet piling rig, unique in Australia. The ABI Mobilram rig, capable of pitching and driving sheets to 14m proved ideally suited to the task and achieved good production, in spite of the difficult conditions, not least of which was the dense sand.

Further information: Steelcom, tel 02 9954 9166.