CASE STUDY
DARLING QUARTER

APPLICATION
Glass roofs & atria

ARCHITECT
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PRODUCT
TESS™200

LOCATION
Sydney, Australia

A unique tension system fit for dramatic triple-height atrium

The Darling Quarter precinct is a triumph of technology as the irregular curved design of the building ensures that no two façades are the same. In total the buildings incorporate 55,000m² of office space designed in a campus-style formation to reactivate the precinct as a public space.

A dramatic triple-height atrium is one of the central design elements of the project. It not only forms a breath-taking feature it is also integral in the project's lighting, heating and cooling system. The atrium's curved ceiling design incorporates shaped glass panels which required the solar control system to be carefully considered, designed and thoroughly tested before installation.

A unique tension blind system was needed which would retract precisely, preventing any fabric sagging or operation difficulties over the entire length. The TESS™200 system was chosen by contractors Horiso as the fabric openness allowed light filtration and minimised solar gain.

There were several challenges on this particular project. Access for installation was difficult with an atrium height equivalent to 8 storeys, a span of 56 metres across and a pitch of 37°. Overall, the actual size of the tension system had never been achieved before on a building worldwide - 14 metres long by 3.2 metres wide. The Southern building blinds were also shaped to ensure they accurately fitted the curve of the ceiling's skylight panels. The blind sections are synchronised and automatically tilt in response to the exact position of the sun throughout the day.

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