

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL

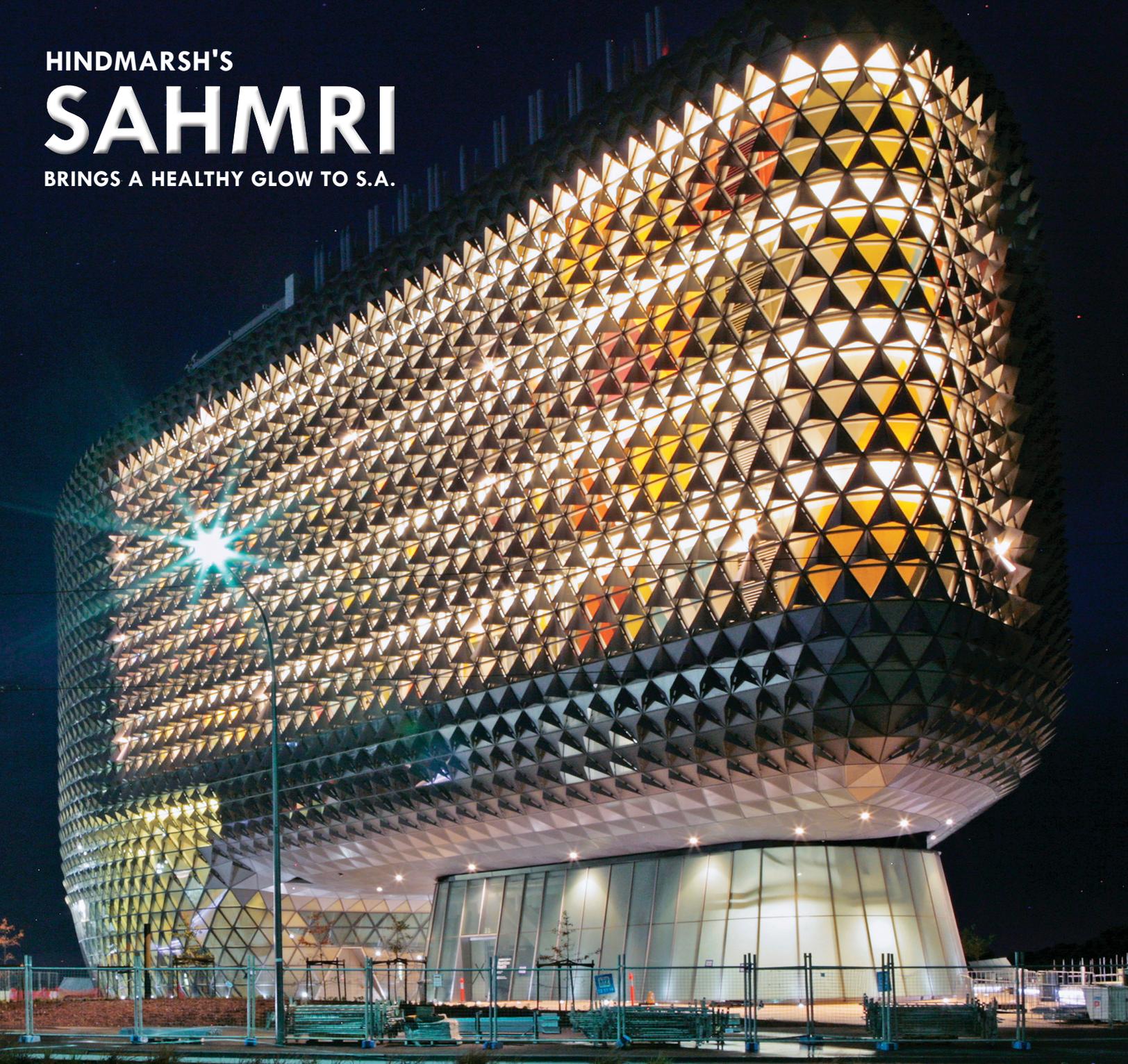
CONSTRUCTION

MAJOR PROJECT REVIEW

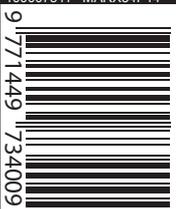
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A MAJOR REVOLUTION IN CONCRETE REINFORCING

One of the most innovative elements of the Broken Hill Shopping Plaza is something no customer will ever see – the HELIX Micro-Rebar which was used in the structural concrete instead of conventional steel reinforcing. HELIX is a high performance product originally developed for the US Military for blast and earthquake-resistant applications, and has been available in Australia for five years now.

HELIX is comprised of short, twisted, 1,700MPa high tensile cold drawn steel with corrosion-resistant zinc electroplating which is added to concrete during mixing. The result is concrete with superior flexural capacity, increased shear strength, durability, resistance to cracking and superior load-spreading for all structural concrete. Because HELIX replaces conventional reinforcing bar and mesh, the weight of slabs are also reduced.

The advantages for contractors like Hutchinsons at Broken Hill Plaza are reduced costs and time associated with reinforcement placement, eradication of placement errors and no need for reinforcement inspection. HELIX also increases a project's ESD attributes through being manufactured from 53% recycled steel and reducing the carbon footprint associated with both handling and deliveries to site. The 12 tonnes of HELIX used in the concrete at Broken Hill amounted to 30% less steel than would have been used with traditional mesh and bar.

All the necessary alternative designs for use of HELIX are supplied following re-engineering of the structural concrete design, with the re-design then certified by a qualified structural engineer and accompanied with the necessary warranties.

Helix's Victorian representative worked closely with Hutchinson's concrete supplier, Mawsons, to train and certify the operators in the proper method for introducing HELIX into each truckload of concrete for the project.

"HELIX can be incorporated in such a wide range of projects. One of our clients is building a rock crushing plant. The structural concrete was done with HELIX – walls, tunnels, slabs, almost everything," said a HELIX Spokesman.

"The advantage for projects of using HELIX is substantial time and cost savings, resulting in earlier project delivery, less labour required as all steel-fixing is eliminated, and fewer risks. We also provide expertise to re-engineer project designs to use HELIX on a no-risk, no-obligation basis."

Hutchinson Builders had previously used HELIX for an IGA Supermarket project in Queensland. Other projects which have benefited from using the product include L U Simons' The Haven, Barwon Water projects around Geelong, Conset and the Ford Motor Company.

HELIX is available in every state, with technical support and training available for users and key stakeholders including structural engineers, builders, concrete suppliers and their batch plant operators.

For more information contact Helix Steel Australasia Pty Ltd, phone 03 5258 3663, email kwf@helixsteelaust.com.au, website www.helix-microrebar.com.au and www.helixsteel.com