

Master Class Background:

To coincide with the development of Piazza Italia, City of Melbourne's major project for Carlton's Argyle Square, RMIT's Art in Public Space offers a Master Class in Italian Porphyry Cobblestone. Porphyry cobblestones are singular in their characteristic quarry face and subtle hues, and represent a notable departure from granite cobblestone sets and paving tiles evident in Melbourne's streetscapes.

The Porphyry Cobblestone Master Class will appeal to a broad spectrum of industry representatives sharing an interest in stone, ranging from architects and urban planners, landscape architects, designers and contractors, stonemasons and tilers, gardeners, artists working in the public art arena, sculptors, lecturers, teachers and students.

The stone workshops offer a singular opportunity to draw together a cross sector group of participants within and beyond the RMIT community, to experience a stone forum, in an international setting, accessible in Melbourne.

Master Class Leader:

The Master Class is led by visiting Italian industry expert Andrea Angheben, from Trento Northern Italy, source of Italian porphyry. Andrea Angheben represents ESPO, the Peak Industry Body for the Promotion and Quality Control of Trento's famous Porphyry Industry.

A Master Stonemason, Andrea is the leader of the Quality Control Team in the Quarries of ESPO, and Lecturer for Technical and Training Workshops for Design Professionals at ESPO.

The two Australian stonemasons participating in the Piazza Italia's cobblestone work were recently trained by Andrea in Trento.

During the Workshop, Andrea will be supported by Andrea Tomaselli and Dianne Beevers (Art in Public Space, RMIT), who trained at ESPO in Italy in 2004 and are lead artists in the development of the Argyle Square Public Art Project for City of Melbourne.



**Piazza Italia, Carlton: Grey and red (rosso) porphyry cobblestones in traditional overlapping arcs, with the central sundial in bronze, stainless steel and bands of white verdello stone.
Designer: Andreas Tomaselli, 2005**

Master Class Content:

- Introduction to porphyry: historical perspectives, mineralogy and technical properties.
- Sourcing porphyry: quarrying and sorting.
- Product range of materials, interior and exterior works: cubes, split tiles, small blocks, and kerbstones.
- Finishes: quarry face, bush hammered, semi-polished, polished, flamed.
- Design: focus will feature aspects of planning selection for colour and stone size, traditional patterns and applications including overlapping arcs, parallel lines, fans, and concentric circles.
- Design software demonstration by Andrea Tomaselli
- Technical considerations of site preparation, laying and finishing.
- Specialist knowledge of stone, paving design and installation techniques, specifically traditional Italian approaches to use of stone in applications such as paved public space.
- Hands on practical sessions with Italian porphyry cubes and traditional Italian tools.
- Site visit to Carlton's new Piazza Italia in Argyle Square on Lygon Street with Andrea Angheben, and the designer of the piazza, Melbourne artist Andrea Tomaselli. Two colours of Italian porphyry cubes are used in overlapping arcs, combined with white verdello bands.

Prerequisites:

Participants should wear enclosed boots and supply their own protective gloves and glasses. All equipment and tools required for Workshop participation will be provided. Attendees will work in pairs during the practical components of the Workshop. Prior experience in masonry is not essential but an active interest in stone is desirable.

Master Class Format:

The Master Class will combine lectures and presentations, hands on training and a site visit to Argyle Square. Practical sessions involving the handling of stone will adhere to Australian OH&S standards.

Award:

In addition to an RMIT Certificate of Participation, attendees will receive a Certificate of Attendance from ESPO.

Participants will not take away the finished work, nor leave a permanent installation. They will however gain rich experience and insights into stone work, industry networking, and participate in cultural exchange.

Venue:

RMIT Building 50 and an outdoor site are in Orr Street Carlton, off Victoria Street, between Cardigan and Lygon Streets.

Enrolment Details

Low enrolment classes postponed or canceled (fees refunded in full with no refunds once the course has commenced). Cancellations incur a \$50 admin. fee. Dates are correct at time of publication but may be changed at short notice.

How to Enroll:

Enrolments can be made through RMIT Training over the phone using a credit card. Call them on 9925 8111 and quote the Code and dates of the Workshop you wish to attend.

Alternatively, you can enroll online at RMIT Training's Short Course website at www.rmit.edu.au/shortcourses

You are also able to print an enrolment form from this website. Complete the details and fax to RMIT Training at 9925 8134.

You can also call into RMIT Training at Level 3, 449 Swanston St. Melbourne.



Argyle Square: Aerial view of Piazza Italia between Cardigan and Lygon Streets, Carlton.

Title: Porphyry Cobblestone Master Class

Code: S340069

Fee: \$550

Duration: 3 days

Dates: 28th, 29th & 30th November

OR
1st, 2nd & 3rd December

Time: 9.00 am to 4.00pm

Phone: 9925 8111

Fax: 9925 8134

URL: www.rmit.edu.au/shortcourses