



News in Brief



ECU Village Mount Lawley officially opened

Minister for Defence, the Hon. Stephen Smith MP, joined [Edith Cowan University \(ECU\)](#) Chancellor, the Hon. Dr Hendy Cowan, and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kerry Cox this week to officially open ECU's new student accommodation. Minister Smith praised the AJ+C designed 523 bed development, stating that it would add significant attraction to both ECU and the surrounding Mount Lawley area of Perth.



Christmas charity

All of us at Allen Jack+Cottier wish you and your family a safe and happy Christmas. This year, as an alternative to sending out Christmas Cards and in keeping with the Christmas spirit, AJ+C will be donating money to the Anganwadi Project. The Anganwadi Project aims to rebuild and renovate 66 'anganwadi' (pre-schools) in the slum areas of Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India. The project is currently sending teams of qualified volunteers from Architects Without Frontiers to work in Ahmedabad for periods of six weeks up to four months. Find out more at:

www.anganwadiproject.com



AJ+C's Beijing office expanded

Lee Collard and Erin Colgrave have relocated from Sydney to Beijing to spearhead AJ+C's push into the China market. Lee and Erin have worked on a number of China projects with AJ+C, including the Hainan Duty Free City and the Suqian Grand Canal Resort. They join Beijing director, Cheng Wei and Zheng Liang in our expanded Beijing office.



Hon Tanya Plibersek MP Opens New IGS School Building

The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP officially opened The International Grammar School's AJ+C designed [Kerrie Murphy Building](#) on 31 August.

'International Grammar School's new building is a great example of the effective use of BER (Building the Education Revolution) funding. What an exceptional building – and not only in terms of its great value for learning and play for the students for decades to come – but its architecture makes it a feature on the Ultimo landscape and for the community,' Ms Plibersek said.

'With its sustainable features – water re-use and the benefits of e-glass technology – the Kerrie Murphy Building is truly a worthy project, one that the school team and the architects can be proud of'.

Awards

AJ+C has picked up six major awards in 2011 for projects ranging from a regional shopping centre to domestic house alterations.

+ 2011 Australian Institute of Architects (AIA) Commendation for Public Building
Milson Island Indoor Sports Stadium, Brooklyn, NSW, Australia

+ 2011 Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) Australia Award for Urban Design
Southbank, Brisbane QLD, Australia

+ 2011 Viridian Vision Awards Commercial Energy Efficiency Category
Kerrie Murphy Building, International Grammar School Sydney, NSW, Australia

+ 2011 Property Council 2011 Award for Innovation & Excellence
The Village, Balgowlah Sydney, NSW, Australia

+ 2011 HOUSES Magazine's 2011 Awards High Commendation Award
Glass Loggia House, Glebe, NSW, Australia

+ 2011 Timber Design Awards Highly Commended: Interior Fitout Award – Commercial
Milson Island Indoor Sports Stadium, Brooklyn, NSW, Australia

Three projects, Milson Island Indoor Sports Stadium, Glass Loggia House and Harris Street Studios were also shortlisted for the prestigious World Architecture Festival in Barcelona, Spain.



'This is by far the best student accommodation.'
Belinda Carey - student



Edith Cowan University Student Housing

Allen Jack+Cottier and Campus Living Villages have transformed a humble suburban carpark into a living and learning environment for 523 students at Edith Cowan University's Mount Lawley Campus in Perth, WA. The village welcomed its first students in January 2011 and is already fully occupied.

The village is located at the eastern gateway to the suburban Mount Lawley Campus and straddles the border between the built up academic precinct to the south and the residential and open space area to the north and east.

Creating a successful student community was central to AJ+C's competition-winning design. Shared common areas for social interaction, group study and student services foster a sense of community. The studios and 4, 5 and 6-bed apartments allow housemates to get together in the lounge room or get away from it all in the quiet and privacy of their own bedroom.

The green leafy surrounds were woven into the campus via courtyards and accessways that meet at a landscaped central space. This contains a student recreation and services pavilion, and the ever popular swimming pool.

We established a 'campus gateway' by positioning the tallest building next to the entry road and academic buildings to the south, which also creates a defined edge between the entry road and the quieter areas within the village.

The design maximises solar access to the accommodation and open spaces by placing the low scale, three storey buildings in the north and seven storey buildings in the south.

Environmentally sustainable features include gas-boosted solar hot water, insulation, reverse veneer construction, sun-shading and dual orientation for the majority of units, giving excellent natural cross-ventilation.



Moore College Challenges Conventions of Campus Structures.

Moore College is a residential theological college. It offers a unique form of tertiary education catering for mature age students and their families to live and study on site. Moore College considered relocating from its inner-city Sydney campus in Newtown, where it has been based for almost 120 years. Five separate potential sites were considered before the College decided to remain, opting to explore the development potential of its existing site.

Allen Jack+Cottier's education design team was commissioned to devise a master plan that would serve the College until 2050. This master plan vision delivers a strong integrated and vibrant contemporary campus, tailored to the specific needs of this special tertiary institution. Under Part 3A approvals process, an additional 27,500 m² of gross floor area was achieved for educational, residential and retail uses (see cover).

Here, Mark Louw, Director of Architecture at AJ+C talks about the process of reworking the Moore College site, and the expected outcomes as the new design is delivered between now and 2013.

Q: How much has the tertiary education services market changed over the past few years?

A: The traditional 'university' model, with its single-discipline buildings each housing its own support functions, is no longer relevant. Today, consolidation is the real imperative – for both inner city and greenfields sites. Facilities and structures must now earn their keep by serving as wide a range of purposes as possible, for as long as possible into the future.

Q: In this new environment, what are the main things tertiary institutions need to get right? How can good design help them do that?

A: Collaboration, consolidation, flexibility and agility are the key areas that must be at the forefront in designing workable, functional and attractive tertiary spaces for the future. Great design and planning are the starting points.

Q: What challenges does the College face in responding to those changes?

A: The Moore College site is heavily constrained by heritage, traffic and adjoining residential sites. With ever increasing land values and building costs, options such as high density storage space in basements have been included. This results in a 40% reduction in floor space and a significant increase in useability.

Q: What was the brief for the Moore College project?

A: The brief was to optimise the development potential of the sites currently under Moore College ownership. It was also about the consolidation of accommodation, allowing for the College to ultimately house all residential requirements on one campus. A triangular portion of land bound by Carillon Avenue, King and Little Queen Streets serves as the main academic hub, with its anchor being the Resource and Research Centre. The brief for this Resource and Research Centre was to use innovative design and technology to transform Australia's premier collection of books and other resources for the study of religion and related subjects into a world-class centre for higher education and research.

Q: What three key things stand out as AJ+C's achievements in responding to that brief?

A: *Client importance.* Doug Marr, Director of Property Planning Moore College set strategies allowing us to align our design process to fully integrate the College's needs and goals. Doug's iterative and participatory process ensured that the proposed facility was benchmarked against world's best practice.

Integrated team. The success of the overall project was also due to an integrated team of our architects and urban designers working closely with all consultants.

Technological effects. In the overall planning a lot of consideration was given to mental and physical space requirements and an understanding of how organisations change.

Q: Are there things that you would do differently if you were to tackle the project again?

A: Looking back, there is very little we would change. We not only achieved the best design outcomes from a built form and contextual point of view, but also in terms of the flexible configuration of land uses across the site.

Q: Does the client intend to build? When will it be completed?

A: The overall development will be staged over a number of years as funding becomes available to the College. The Resource and Research Centre will be the first stage and it is itself staged, subject to funding availability. We are currently working through two options and it is anticipated that the construction of the first stage will commence in mid 2012 and be completed in 2013.



Abbotsleigh Senior School



Setting a Path For Future Growth

Allen Jack+Cottier was invited by Abbotsleigh Senior School to develop a master plan that addresses the needs of the school over the next 20 years. Following an extensive review of the existing workings of the school and an understanding of the key elements that are a crucial part of Abbotsleigh's identity and character we have spent the last year working closely with the School Property Council to develop a master plan that builds on these

foundations, setting a path for the School's future growth. The master plan has been developed through a collaborative process with the School in which all options that arose were explored, to continually fine tune the plan ensuring an appropriate and successful outcome.

Following the master plan AJ+C has been commissioned by Abbotsleigh to carry out additional alterations and additions work to

three houses Read, Vindin and Lynton, with the latter two being registered on the NSW Heritage list.

Prior to Christmas, construction is due to commence on alterations and additions to Read House, an interwar free classical style residence, which is being converted from a single residence into a boarding house with additional supporting staff accommodation.



Modelling of extensions to Read House



Proposed north elevation to Read House



Eileen O'Connor Centre



Eily Rosaline (Eileen) O'Connor (1892-1921)

Inspirational Facility Provides Ideal Setting for 21st Century Teaching Methods

The Eileen O'Connor Centre combines knowledge from the forefront of pedagogical research with a considered architectural response to an existing school building, to create a model environment for 21st century teaching.

The Eileen O'Connor Centre will provide a contemporary learning facility and discovery centre on the Trinity Grammar School site in the Sydney suburb of Lewisham. The Centre will house three streams of learning; Gifted Education, Special Education and English as a Second Language, for approximately 50 students up to year 12 and 20 staff.

The client's brief requested an iconic form, a resource centre, a variety of learning spaces to cater for contemporary teaching practices, staff rooms and administration and catering facilities. AJ+C's design transforms an existing building by stripping out the current classroom layout to create three levels of open plan, 'blended' learning spaces and teleconference facilities. A glazed roof extension with a louvred screen facade to the veranda on one side of the building

will provide informal glazed breakout spaces and a stairway to all levels. This extension introduces high levels of natural daylight and natural ventilation into the building.

The Discovery Centre adjoins one end of the blended learning space to form an L shape around an existing courtyard. The iconic building form suspends the Discovery Centre over an arrival and exhibition space, creating an inspiring identity for the Eileen O'Connor Centre. The building will contain a resource centre and a variety of learning, performance and exhibition spaces.

The proposed facade of the building is a high tech glazed structure which will attenuate aircraft noise, optimise thermal comfort and incorporate a graphic that embodies the innovation and excitement of this new learning environment.

The design of the Discovery Centre's iconic form was carefully considered to provide the Centre with an additional arrival point, while ensuring that it does not impact on the nearby heritage listed St Thomas' Catholic Church.