



'Elegant & timeless': the use of glass connects the new Library building to its environment
- Image courtesy of fjmt

will indicate which items are in the ASRS, with clients being able to order items online and collect them from a service point. The retrieval process takes just a few minutes, meaning all of the Library's physical collections are immediately available.

Browsing of the stored collection will be 'virtual' and the Library is exploring ways to augment online descriptions of books and journals to maximise their visibility.

Green

The new Library is aiming to achieve a rare 5 Green Star rating from the Green Building Council of Australia. To qualify, the entire lifecycle of the building needs to be planned beforehand, from the environmental impact of the materials in creation, the impact of the operation of the building during its life, to the disposal of materials after it is dismantled.

The expected completion date is 2010 and the cost is \$77 million. More project details are available at <http://www.lib.mq.edu.au/newlibrary/>

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Building within an established building

In 2007, Curtin University Library was given a budget of nearly \$1 million to develop a bold, creative and innovative learning space to support student-centred learning. The aim was to provide technology-rich, attractive surroundings incorporating different zones for wireless laptops, freestanding express computers, high quality graphics workstations, a presentation space with wall-mounted LCD screens, as well as areas utilising bluetooth and web-camera enabled PCs.



Construction at Curtin

Creating the new iZone required research, planning and preparation because it had to be developed within the Robertson Library building due to its central location on the Bentley campus. The building is an iconic 1970s structure which had last been

extensively renovated twenty years ago. Much of the internal structure cannot be tampered with so adding windows or external doorways was out of the question.

It was decided to gut an area on level two and careful consideration was given to blending the more 'dated' design elements with innovative requirements. Decisions were based on feedback from regular library and university surveys about

clients' opinion of current facilities and the improvements they wanted.

Unlike a new building starting from scratch, the budget had to factor in the costs of demolition and removal of the old infrastructure of offices, such as internal walls. After demolition, work began in earnest in the second half of 2008. What quickly became apparent was that the 40 year old infrastructure had inadequate power points for the today's technology. Inventive ways to overcome this lack included incorporating metal troughs into the concrete floor to allow electrical wiring to be accessible throughout the area and installing power points in the bench seating along the walls for laptop users.

Another consequence of building 'within a building' was that services had to continue even though part of the library had become a construction site. On the plus side, having an established building meant fewer planning permissions were needed and teething problems for the building itself have already been sorted!

Opened at the end of October 2007, the new space now provides flexible facilities that accommodate evolving technologies for a diversity of client use.

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Palace and shed

'Studied informality' was the headline used to describe the Sunshine Coast TAFE Noosa centre at Tewantin when it first opened. (*Architecture Australia* 2005, v94(4)). Around the same time 'Palace and shed' was the headline in the local Weekender magazine. Both are saying the same thing about style and comfort, and low environmental impact.

Designed by Don Watson to suit the energy and water smart sustainability focus of the then Noosa Shire, and built in stylish alternating greys of corrugated iron and louvre panels, it caters for arts, tourism, aged care, language, computing and vocational access programs.

The layout is in a double winged style with central open atrium set in bushland with winding driveway to hide the low level building from the road. Spaces include gallery, pottery and painting studios as well as classrooms and computer rooms. The building won the annual Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) FDG Stanley Award for Public Architecture prize for its year, as well as the Harry Marks Award for Sustainable Architecture, and several other design awards.

Water is recycled from the roof via a series of short downpipes which become dramatic water features during storms. A dry creek bed of stones channels this runoff to underground and above ground tanks for use as grey water. A local Bushland Study group gathered seeds from the site prior to construction and landscaping was natural revegetation with no exotic planting. Botanical samples of cuttings were collected into three folders (trees, understorey, weeds) then catalogued in the library for reference by local conservation groups and horticulture students.

Library and administration are in a standalone building with cross ventilation and climate friendly design features. The library is a boutique space with full floor to ceiling glass outlook to the adjoining bush, and high sloping ceilings.