



Prior to the recent official opening of the New College Village at the University of NSW, the College Master – Professor Trevor Cairney – shared his thoughts.



NEW COLLEGE

“The wonderful thing to witness has been the way residents have accepted and in fact love the building. When we set out with AJ+C to design the building my key priority was to build a strong community. This requires acknowledgement of the need for private space but with ample inviting public space where residents can spend time together. Opportunities for support, connection and the chance to meet and learn from others are fundamental to the brief I developed. It seems that the plan has worked! Whether it’s the constant activity of the Games room, suppers in the common rooms on each floor, movie nights in common rooms, BBQs on the rooftop terrace, or discussion and study in the many common areas, our residents are actively involved in each other’s lives.”

Master Professor of New College, Trevor Cairney

AJ+C Project Director, Andrew Parker, attributes success to the combined efforts of New College, Lipman, and the AJ+C team. “It’s particularly rewarding to see the goal of community become a reality” says Andrew.



Scott Norton

NEWSIN BRIEF

Edith Cowan University

AJ+C values its long-standing relationship with Campus Living Villages (CLV). The partnership has yielded several award-winning student villages in Brisbane and Sydney. Most recently, the practice has won a bid for student housing on the Mount Lawley campus of Edith Cowan University, in Perth. Project coordinator, Dua Cox, reports that new housing will contribute 350 beds to existing accommodation. “Student housing has evolved,” says the designer. “The creation of a vibrant student community is at the heart of our design. But There’s no time for resting on laurels – AJ+C continues to explore new ground with CLV.”



Dua Cox

Marrickville Medal

A former flour mill adapted by AJ+C into strata office studios has received a major local government award. Located within Sydney’s inner west municipality of Marrickville, Flourmill Studios received the 2009 Marrickville Medal. “The owner and architects have retained and restored important original artefacts,” said Mayor of Marrickville, Sam Iskandar. “The result is an exciting building that contributes to the architectural character of Newtown and represents the spirit of conservation and heritage celebrated through the Marrickville Medal.” Flourmill Studios has also been



shortlisted for the Australian Institute of Architects (NSW Chapter) Greenway Award for Heritage.

Flamenco!

Interior Architecture discipline leader Scott Norton is off to Taipei, but not for architecture.

The Taiwanese Opera Company has engaged Opera Australia to visit and perform the highly-acclaimed 2008 rendition of Carmen. Scott is an experienced Flamenco dancer with over 10 years dancing experience. Last year, he was among the Flamenco dancers for Opera Australia’s Carmen, which ran from January to April at the Sydney Opera House. Scott leaves in June for a month filled with

rehearsals, performances, and of course, sightseeing. This is the first time Scott has embarked onto the international stage and we are sure it won’t be the last!

Claire’s superstudio

AJ+C student architect, Claire Hosking, was the state winner of the international competition Superstudio in 2008. An annual competition run by AIA’s student branch, Sona, architecture students from Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Hong Kong compete in small groups. Each group was given a brief and 48 hours to conceive an architectural response within a studio environment.

Claire and her team mate designed enough solar panels to power a small former coal mining town in Newcastle. Declared overall winners, the students will visit the 2010 Venice Architecture Biennale.

ARCHITECTURE URBAN DESIGN HERITAGE INTERIORS GRAPHICS

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Story: Brian Mariotti
Photo: Nic Bailey



How AJ+C designed an office with 'pig-pens' and a 'nightclub'



When Tract Consultants, Landscape Architects considered relocating to the 8th floor of an office building in North Sydney, they approached AJ+C interior designer, Sophie Orrock, to seek her advice before signing the lease.

Julie Lee, Director of Tract, recalls the office brief: "In essence, we asked for an open 'studio' environment where communication and the office culture would thrive."

The office would also accommodate workstations in an L-shaped partitioned floor space. After consulting with Sophie, the landscape architects saw how their ideas could be implemented.

The fitout is now recent memory, with staff firmly settled into the new office. So what's the verdict?

"We've been here for almost a year now and we love it," says Julie. "The office is bright and airy and when we have visitors, they all comment on how fresh the fit out feels."

The Director of Tract describes the new office as a series of 'pig-pens' within a 'nightclub'.

The so-called 'pig-pens' are work pods where staff have individual work spaces and 'muck in' on projects, usually around meeting and lay-out tables. Portable 'bongo' stools are scattered around each pod, allowing staff to sit where they

"We've been here for almost a year now and we love it."

choose. Screens between the workstation bays are low to keep the office open plan and to encourage interaction between staff.

As the moniker suggests, the 'nightclub' is a popular destination. An open area is lined with low bookshelves along one wall and a central large table where staff can eat lunch, meet clients, spread out drawings or stage presentations.

A lineal series of joinery units with an enlarged 'leaf' photo graphically rendered to the front surface forms the edge of the foyer space. Visiting students and staff can utilise these surfaces as hot desks and layout areas.

Each element has been designed to be clever and hard-working: freestanding floor-to-ceiling frameless glass panels separate the kitchen from the remaining office and offer a projector screen for presentations; a floor-to-ceiling glass wall in the meeting room doubles as a 'whiteboard', and full-height walls are upholstered in Ecopanel, encouraging use as pin-up boards.

A limited colour and material palette is denoted by white melamine worktops, offset by bold floral Florence Broadhurst designs. The chairs also provide notable flashes of colour. "The staff are happy and our initial brief has certainly been met," concludes Julie. +

Sophie Orrock



INTERNATIONAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

IGS

Story: Brian Mariotti
Photo: Nic Bailey

The International Grammar School (IGS) in Ultimo models itself as a progressive and diverse independent school. It is certainly growing fast; since moving into their current building in 1997, student numbers have almost doubled in High School, meaning space is precious.

In 2007, AJ+C was commissioned to upgrade the existing library. Their mission: a 21st century learning centre with more storage space for books, new multi-media areas and more space for students. Visual identity was also important: "We wanted it to look like a library," says project manager Patrick Skagerfält "with a borrowing desk for example, as a strong behavioural cue to the students."

IGS sought to promote the independence of its students by creating three separate areas: Junior and Senior libraries and a Senior study area; good acoustic separation between each allows quiet and, well, less quiet activities to take place side by side. This is a library after all.

"We drew inspiration from modernity and sustainability," says project architect, John Whittingham, "but with a sense of playfulness."

"It was important also to develop a theme that would continue through future projects at the school – a design prototype."

Solid partitions were replaced with clear frameless glazing and tall bookshelves were replaced with low-level shelving systems at child height to open the library up to natural light and lengthen sight lines.

Light colours and finishes throughout reflect the increased natural light and enhance the openness of the layout; bright and bold colours, influenced by the IGS's corporate colour palette, hint at the playful quirkiness of the school's image.

Finishes used (from carpet and pinboards to desktops and benches), reflect both the school and AJ+C's commitment to ESD. +