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## Milson Island Indoor Sports Stadium - Brooklyn, NSW, Australia

Monday 16 May 2011

Poetic inventiveness and response to place is evident in this powerful steel-framed sports building, located in a small island in the Hawkesbury River north of Sydney.

Allen Jack+Cottier Principal Michael Heenan's first sports building since his Berry Sports Hall won the prestigious World Architecture Award, the Milson Island sports centre has recently been shortlisted for the AIA Architecture award, Public Architecture (NSW) category.

AJ+C's brief was to design a robust multi-purpose recreation hall for young children to have fun in while on residential camp. A careful study of local conditions resulted in a building that fits gracefully into the extraordinary natural context.

Its curving lightweight canopy seemingly floats over the landscape of its beautiful island site.

"This is a powerful building which in its frugality demonstrates the essence of shelter," says Michael Heenan. "it's a building that exploits the inherent properties of steel and ply, designed to unload the wind forces on this exposed site, and reducing the weight of the structure by 30 per cent.

The curved form of the building is an overt and direct expression of its thermodynamic analysis. It naturally heats itself in winter and cools itself in summer.

Its wing shape generating lift and suction combines with a dozen wind turbines on the roof and continuous floor mounted ducts to create a natural and significant ventilation system which can react to the prevailing winds.

It separates leaves and branches whilst collecting its own water which is naturally filtered and stored for later use. The entire building was engineered to be able to reduce the affect of the APZ or restricted fire zone.

The ply ceiling becomes structural cross-bracing and the walls and ceiling carry all the wind loads of 38m of building to the ground. Well almost to the ground... an uninterrupted slot between the floor and the eye height of a twelve year old means kids can see the fantasy of the landscape beyond, while their taller teachers are focussed on the activity within.

Two dark service pods pierce the south glazing compressing space and focusing the entry experience before the explosion of space and light of the main hall.

The near north elevation forms a dramatic proscenium arch for performances both inside the hall and outside around the campfire.

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Completed	2010
Cost	A\$2.7 million
GFA	670m <sup>2</sup>
Client	Sport and Recreation, Community's NSW

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