



**Media Release
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Winning building combines sense of purpose and place

Lyons' award-winning design for the South West TAFE's Warrnambool Campus creates an interplay between the building's functional purpose, its heritage setting and its role as an extension of the streetscape's civic space.

The third stage in the redevelopment of South West TAFE's Warrnambool Campus involves approximately 2,870sqm of floor space, over three levels, and accommodates a diverse brief including; campus student services on the ground level, the campus administration and directorate on the first floor, and a conference centre and other general learning spaces on the third or upper level.

The project required a permit from the Heritage Council of Victoria, due to its adjacency to the listed Warrnambool Court House.

Project architect Carey Lyon says the principal entry façade to Timor Street faces due north, and its context and orientation suggested a couple of key design strategies.

"Firstly the primary circulation of the building is located on the street, as an extension of the civic space – like the footpath repeated across three levels. This is combined with the concept of the self shading wall, accommodating the parameters for environmental performance of both shading and natural ventilation; and allows the street façade to be both shaded and transparent, making the circulation visible onto the street.

"To achieve these objectives materials were sourced for the shading geometries. The profile of expanded metal was expanded to a gigantic scale – one that works with the street. The finished profile is clad in zinc, in order to negotiate the valleys and peaks of the geometry", Mr Lyon said.

At an urban design scale, the rhythm of the building's geometry can be seen to stitch up the street and the two adjacent heritage buildings. At the scale of the building, the internal circulation stairs are coordinated to the geometry of the façade, further amplifying the sensation of connecting the circulation with the street.

The building is entered via a glazed wall formed underneath the major circulation stair, and leads to the student service centre, and then continues through to the rear campus courtyard space. From the foyer, the stairs rise up through the street wall to a series of student spaces, where students self organize into informal learning activities.

The interior courtyard space, to which this project provides half the boundary, (previous redevelopments provide the other half), is designed as a quiet space, with primarily solid walls in metal cladding, contains figurative windows which echo the generating geometry to the north.

The project incorporates some core sustainability practices, including the design concept of the northern façade, the use of natural ventilation and mixed mode for the circulation spaces and stormwater harvested off the roof and landscape works for use in irrigation across the campus.

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