



Mandeville Centre, Loreto Toorak

Project Details

Client: Loreto Mandeville Hall
Location: Toorak, VIC
Approx. Value: \$13.5m
Floor Area: 4430 m²
Completion: July 2015

Contact

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Awards

Australian Institute of Architects, National Award - Educational Architecture, 2016

Australian Institute of Architects (VIC), Henry Bastow Award - Educational Architecture, 2016

Association for Learning Environments Australasia, New Construction - Major Facility, Commendation, 2016

Colorbond® Award for Steel Architecture, Commendation, 2016

Intergrain Timber Vision Awards, Commercial Interiors, Commendation, 2016

“The Library at Loreto Toorak is the epitome of style. In open, light, a ‘best’ and ‘next practice’ facility, one in which both teachers and students work at their most productive.”

– Dr Susan Stevens, Principal, Loreto Mandeville Hall, Toorak, Melbourne

The new Mandeville Centre is an essential investment into the vitality of Loreto Mandeville Hall. It is a focal point for the school community, in function and location, acting as a link to all school operations. The building houses School Administration, Staff Centre, lecture theatre, Learning Resource Centre, Year 12 Centre and a basement level car park consistent with the 1999 City of Stonnington approved master plan.

The pinwheel concept is a diagrammatic response to the physical brief, animating and ordering the building program around a central atrium space, radiating to all physical and spiritual elements on and off site. The atrium continues the existing courtyard language of the campus, further

promoting a pedagogy in which learning environments are blended inside and out. Informal learning spaces are interwoven throughout the light-filled indoor environment, encouraging interaction between students and teaching staff. The Year 12 Centre has its place at the upper level – aspirational in terms of the hierarchy of a school and yet connected visually and physically.

The architecture draws on the library building typology in terms of promoting the quality of light and space (and form). Tectonically the building shrouds and screens its function, balancing the need for a new public face for the school, while respecting the significant heritage context.

The external steel fins orientate views from within the building while screening solar radiation from the east and west - in turn animating the façade without competing with the architecture of the mansion. The north façade provides a transparent and seamless connection with the landscape and mansion setting.