WHAT IS A LIBRARY?

A LIBRARY HAS ALWAYS BEEN KNOWN AS A QUIET PLACE FOR BOOKS AND RETREAT.

A NEW LIBRARY IS FAR MORE THAN A PLACE FOR BOOKS.

IT IS NOW A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO MEET,
A PLACE TO EXPLORE,
AND ULTIMATELY A PLACE TO BE.
We had lots of meetings with the community and asked them, ‘what do YOU want in a library?’
Place is important

It is about where we came from and where we want to go.

It’s about what we believe in today.
How does all that turn into a building?
The building is a landmark
The buildings is a green gateway.

Green public space to gather and relax.
Where OLD + NEW = NOW!

The old hospital building is part of the new library.
The big roof is a symbol of shelter for all.

Everyone is included
A NEW CIVIC HEART
A PLACE FOR ALL PEOPLE

OLD + NEW = NOW!

SUSTAINABLE =
KIND TO OUR
PLANET

INSIDE + OUTSIDE = PLACES TO LEARN

COMMUNITY LED = WE MADE IT!

A GREEN PUBLIC SPACE =
A PLACE TO GATHER/
CHILL/ RELAX

GATEWAY = WELCOME TO
MARRICKVILLE!
Be kind to our planet
Natural ventilation for most of the year and mixed mode in extreme conditions.

The sculpted forms of the internal ceiling are designed to scoop light into the space and along the ceiling surfaces provided natural light to internal spaces.
Building materials sought to maximise reuse, renewable and low embodied energy materials.

The bricks of demolished inhabitable buildings on the site were recycled for reuse.

There is 10km of timber used in the new library, all either recycled or The Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC) certified.
Rain water collection
So...

do the community like their new library?
Library statistics have shown:

This new facility has seen a 100% increase in the number of people visiting the library.

There has been a change in library customers and how the spaces are used.

There has been an increase in the number of customers between aged 16–30.
There has also been an increase in the number of community groups such as mothers groups who are using the library and garden area as a meeting place.
Barbara Emslie (nee Hosking) who completed her nurse’s training at Marrickville District Hospital between 1962-1966.

"I was a trainee nurse at Marrickville District Hospital between 1962 and 1966. I reconnected with the hospital site through the building of the new library. The library that has been created on the old hospital site is incredible. All care has been taken to preserve parts of the old hospital and butt it against the new structure.

When I entered the old part of the building and walked on the original floor boards it took me back to many memories of these boards being polished daily and the four years I walked on these boards. …

The lane that we as nurses walked up and down each day has been utilised and named Hospital Lane.

The new library is an amazing structure which has been created for the community of today and the future with its natural light, ventilation, water storage, children’s outdoor activities area which is built on the old children’s ward suite. Obviously, a great deal of thought, consultation planning and consideration have been involved in building this magnificent library.

The new library is not just a library where people go to find a book. It is a place for the community to meet. A place for students to study and access computers, for children and families to enjoy the activities presented for them. It has many quiet nooks to find a peaceful place to read or just reflect.

The community is extremely fortunate to have this amazing building that has been constructed with great incite for the up and coming generations of Marrickville and surrounding areas."
And here’s what the public think!
It's bringing a diversity of people together in one space

'love me a good library'

my new weekend workspace'

'one good piece of civic architecture'

What's interesting is the space appears to be drawing in a diversity of demographics (seemingly more than the previous library did). It's bringing a diversity of people together in the one space.

I've been to the space 3 times over the last 2 days and I've noticed a lot of people not necessarily using it in the traditional way a library is used - parents heading to the outside public garden with their kids after school or daycare pickup, older local Italians catching up over coffee, and lots of small business owners working remotely (more than usual) - it's a group that struggles with finding a fee-free space to work that's away from the distractions of home.
they've managed to create an environment that feels like you're among nature

great new community facility

OMG it's beautiful

"10/10"

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Marrickville Library, Pateygarang place, Marrickville

zemephotography Wow the main space of the Marrickville Library by architects @architecturebvn is stunning. I'm the early morning like this there is an abundance of light coming down into the space from all angles. Engineering: @twinengineers

They've managed to create an environment that feels like you're amongst nature, there's even wooden panels on the ceilings. The small touches of concrete add tonal textures to the design and the light coloured palette has a very calming affect, perfect for a library. BVN have completely merged an old hospital building from 1859 with their brand new modern design concept. Reclaiming and saving old buildings is a popular practice amongst architecture in Sydney right now. More images to come!

Sydneysiders do you need some photography done for your business/company/agency? I'm a Sydney professional photographer specialising in Architecture | Commercial |

OMG it's beautiful

kathybenmax • Follow
Marrickville Library, Pateygarang place, Marrickville

OMG it's beautiful

kathybenmax Getting sick of me yet with 3rd post today? Did a Focus Tour of Marrickville Library this morning - OMG how beautiful, interesting AND environmentally friendly is this building! This is a view of the roof from inside. Would explain more but rushing to the next tour! @sydneyisopen #sydneyisopen #sydneyisopen2019 @architecturebvn @bvn #minac #architecture #architecturephotography #sydney #sydneyarchitecture #sydney #australiaarchitecture #lovecityarchitecture #architectureporn #architecturaldesign #marrickville #marrickvillelibrary @sydlemus

No getting sick with 3rd post... you need to express yourself. Abundantly.

danielhellerart • Follow
Marrickville, New South Wales

danielhellerart No getting sick with 3rd post... you need to express yourself. Abundantly.

Liked by raquelormella and others

courtneygibson101 The new Marrickville Library: 10/10, a perfect score. A beautifully designed space, thousands of new books, all their old art books out of storage and on display, extensive rooms of non-English books, and spaces named after Georgia Blain and Uncle Lester. It's a really wonderful place. And the first book I borrowed from the new digs: A Novel Idea by my friend Fiona McGregor. 

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danielhellerart that's very kind
'such a wonderful adaptive reuse'

's all kinds of gorgeous and packed full of people'

'how fabulous does our library look!'

'I see many a write-athon in my future'