

## BUILT PEDAGOGY

To address the complex series of issues raised by this outstanding project, the architect selected will need a wide range of core skills and a keen sense of vision. Keith Williams Architects is multi-award winning architectural design practice with a stream of accolades supporting its fast growing international reputation for the creation of dramatic, innovative landmark sustainable architecture of the highest quality. Recipient of more than 20 major design and construction awards for its built projects, Keith Williams Architects has won the prestigious BD Public Building Architect of the Year Award in both 2006 & 2008.

The firm is one of the UK's leading specialist designers of public buildings, with a significant track record in the design and delivery of exemplary projects across a range of scale and geographic locations.

Based in the firm's central London studio, Keith Williams personally initiates and oversees the design of all of the firm's projects, which are developed and implemented with the support of key senior architectural staff.

The firm's core range of skills include:

- Full architectural services from inception to completion
- Leading specialisation in buildings for the public and higher education sectors
- Sustainable Building Design
- Urban design and masterplan strategies
- Interior Design
- Space Planning Services
- Product Development

The firm can act as Lead Consultant and Lead Designer and the teams at Keith Williams Architects place a very high priority on Client service, Design Team Coordination and effective project delivery.

The firm works across a broad range of sectors primarily for public clients. In addition to higher education buildings, the firms work include schemes for the performing and visual arts, and broader cultural projects, studies in urban masterplanning, commercial development and residential projects. Whilst the firm's architecture is inventive, every project is precisely tailored to client need and budget as possible, of equal importance are the skill and inventiveness that the firm's senior architects bring to the client's issues, of functionality, deliverability, balancing apparently conflicting priorities and achieving the maximum possible with the client's available funds.

Williams' architecture with its concerns for the interplay of space, light, form and material coupled with careful consideration for scale history and context, results in buildings that achieve an aesthetic balance between his contemporary, visionary designs and that which exists, whether sensitive and historic, or brownfield.

The firm has been successful in numerous high profile architectural competitions both national and international, and its work has been published worldwide.

## PRACTICE INFORMATION

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Company Registration  
Keith Williams Architects Ltd is registered in the UK  
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Directors

Design Director:  
Keith R Williams BA(Hons) DipArch(Hons) MRIBA  
FRSA RIBA  
ARB Reg No 050413K

Richard Brown BA(Hons) DipArch RIBA  
ARB Reg No 058927F

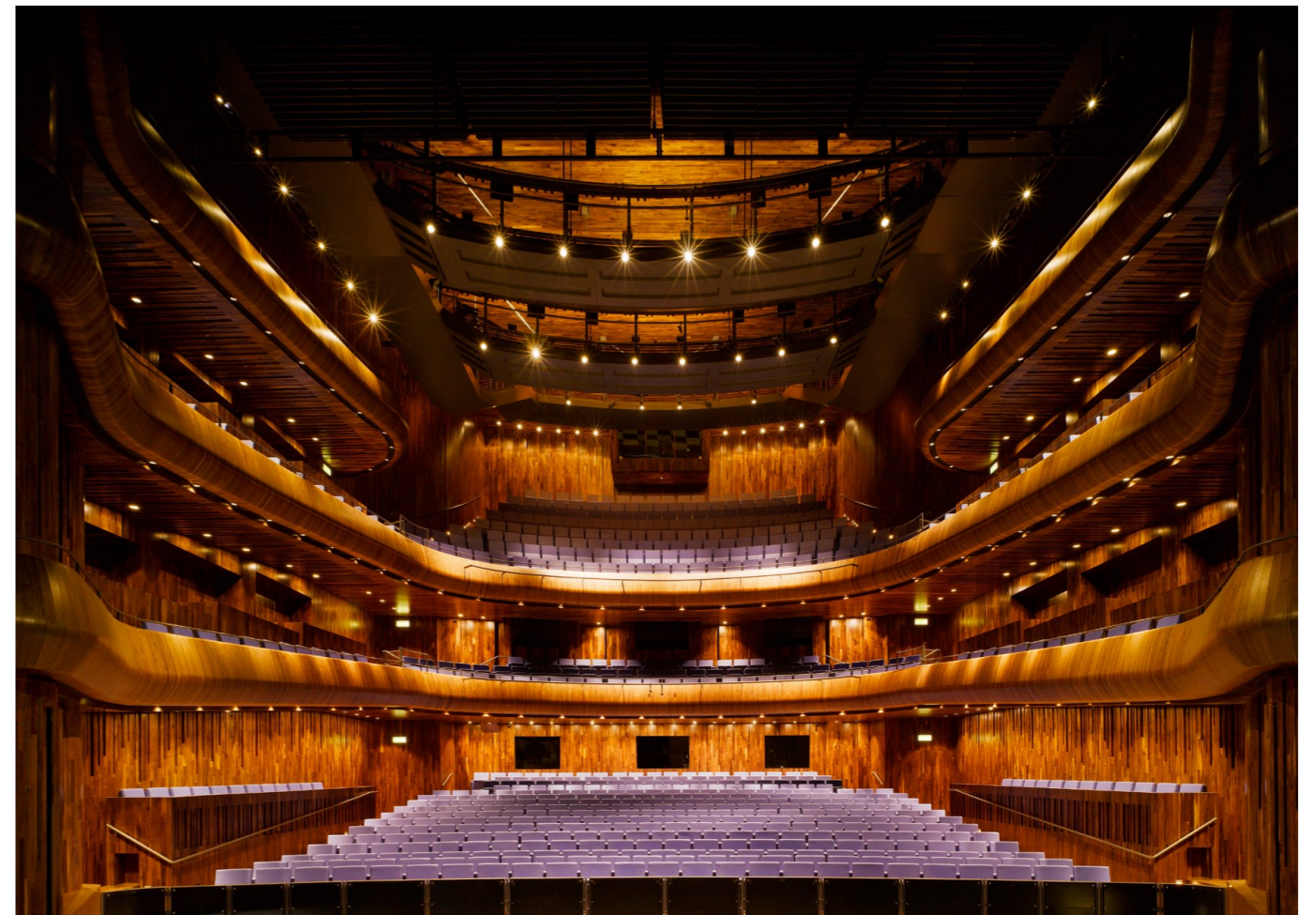
ARB registration satisfies registration requirements for professional qualification under Article 11 of the EC Architects Directive 85/384.



Keith R Williams

## UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE New Building For Faculty of Architecture and Planning

keith williams architects



Project Title	: Wexford Opera House,
Client	: Wexford Festival Opera & OPW
Programme	: 2005 - 2008
Area	: 7,235 sqm
Budget	: €33 million / £23.74 million

Residential Tower, London



The Unicorn Theatre, London



Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury



Ahtlone Civic Centre



BUILT PEDAGOGY

## THE ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

The vision that the new Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning building carries forward should be one which shapes the lives of students and tutors alike by inspiring achievement at both an academic and personal level. The experience of teaching and studying in this building should be a formative process and become a lasting memory to be carried forward throughout life. The quality of environment in the new Faculty building will have a direct impact upon the wellbeing of individuals using it and should become an integral part of the University of Melbourne campus as a whole.

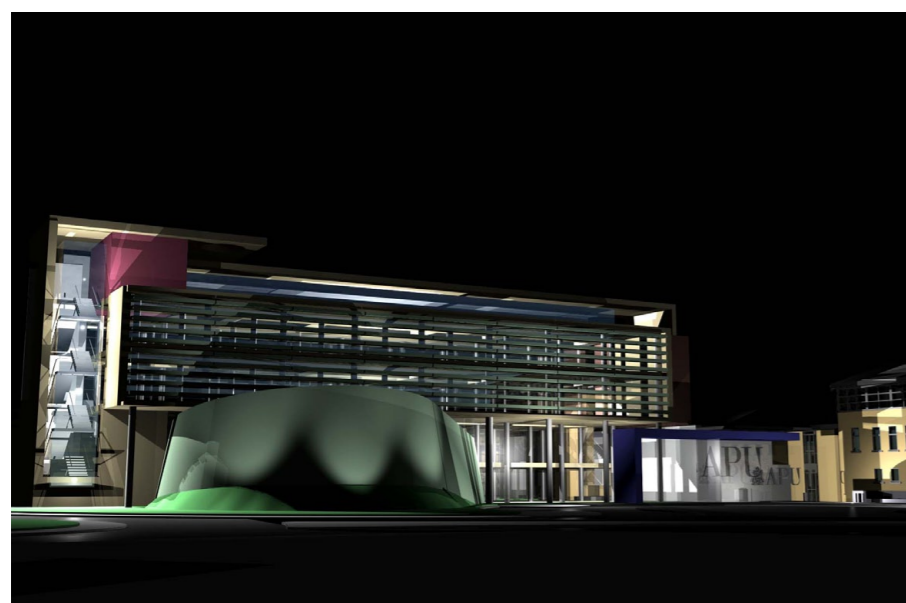
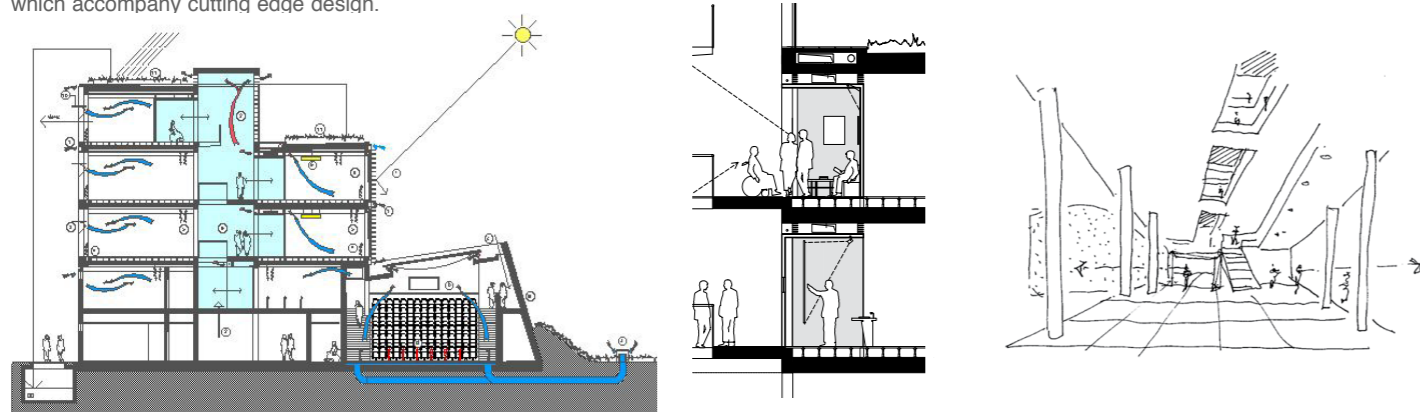
Keith Williams and fellow director Richard Brown have taught widely and consequently understand the dynamics of the education process and the vibrant dialogue which takes place in the academic environment. To be successful, careful thought will need to be given to ensure the provision of a collaborative environment both in the formal academic spaces and the more informal studio environment which extends naturally into the social spaces which bind them together. KWA have recently researched these issues in designs prepared for the Royal College of Art and John Ruskin University.

At the Royal College of Art, the need was for space which retained its own character but that each successive intake of students could make their own as their primary workspace. We developed a "Superstudio" concept which was inherently very flexible where the space provided was a container supplying the basic technical functions such as good light, fresh air, clear acoustics etc. but was not precious or overly fussy. Large well lit, tall ceilinged spaces were proposed which allowed the interior environment to be reinvented periodically through the use of moveable walls to suit student need. Tough easy to maintain surfaces and details allowed the building to take the inevitable knocks of the student environment.

Social functions of the new Faculty building will be critical to the interaction of students and teachers consequently common spaces should be provided in all possible areas to permit this dialogue to be a constant, easy consequence of the building organisation. Our proposals for the New Business School at Ruskin University provided for this with the concept of "fuzzy zones", areas which sat between the formal teaching environment and the common social spaces of the building. These were able to be adapted to individual workgroup needs and become a comfortable bridge between formal academic spaces and the social spaces beyond.

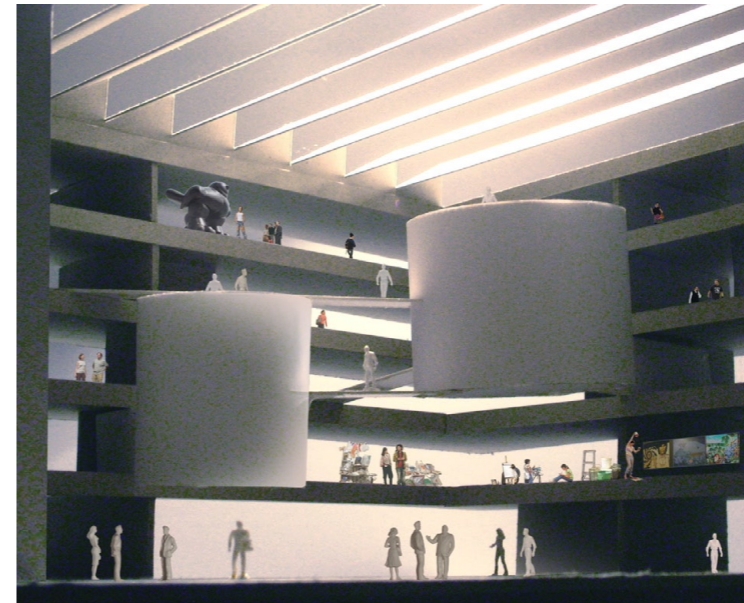
Both the Royal College of Art and John Ruskin University projects were organised around generous open public spaces within which the wider community could engage with the academic space, allowing exhibitions, debates and relaxation to take place augmenting the formal teaching processes. These spaces also served as the core of a passive, naturally vented environment.

A faculty building which can stimulate conversation, thought and debate both physically and philosophically, will be a successful building, the architectural framework provided should foster these aims without being overly restrictive. For the building to be a wise long term investment this framework should be robust enough to develop in line with current academic thinking and to be able to cope with ongoing developments in technology which accompany cutting edge design.



The project for the new 4,950 sqm Centre for Business Management and Post Graduate Studies for Business Management and Post Graduate Studies was based around an internal layout which had as a governing rule adaptability and change in use. The scheme was also used as a vehicle to develop further the practice's approach to a fully integrated low energy approach to architectural design

Project Title : Management Faculty  
 Client : John Ruskin University  
 Programme : 2000  
 Area : 4,950 sqm  
 Budget : £8 million



## UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

New Building For Faculty of Architecture and Planning

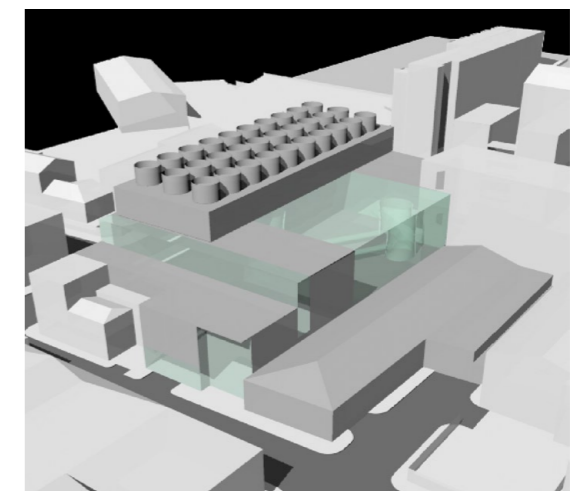
keith williams architects



A major project for the relocation of the Fine and Applied Arts Faculties to the Battersea Campus

The project centres on the provision of student teaching and painting studios gathered around a major new hub which acts as a key social forum for the college, and can also function as public exhibition space.

Project Title : Fine & Applied Arts Faculties Building  
 Client : Royal College of Art  
 Area : 10,500 sqm  
 Budget : €34 million / £22.95 million



ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

## THE DESIGN STUDIO

The Faculty design studio should be:

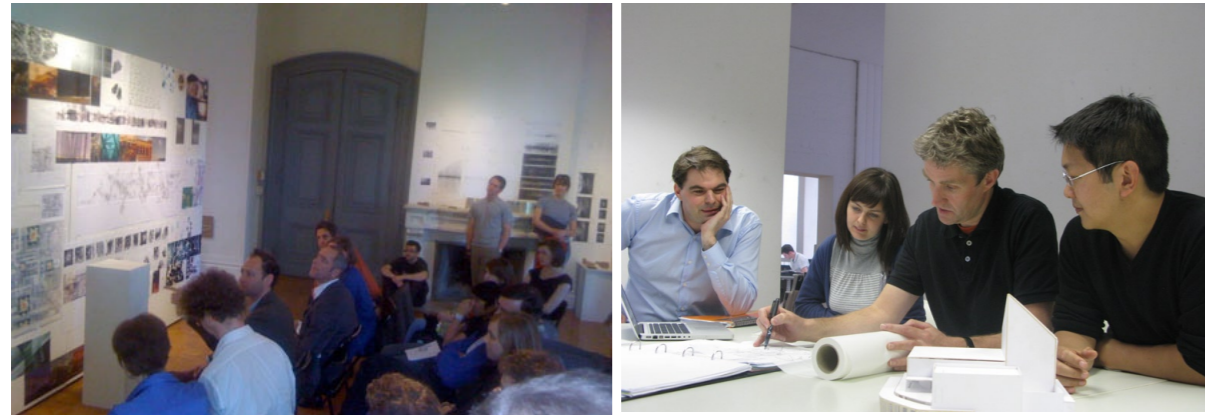
- a creative space for ideas, preparation and developing solutions.
- a place to engage with current technology to develop models, planning, programmes, CAD, CAM and the like
- somewhere where building componentry and materiality can be explored
- a place where people can debate, run workshops and communicate ideas.

Our approach to the development of the Faculty design studios would inevitably be developed by comparison to our own working method as these processes are all part of our day to day experience of architecture and building development. Reference to the existing spaces which the new studios are intended to replace would also form part of the groundwork, we would undertake a precedent study and conduct site visits with the client team to fully explore a range of innovative environments that have been developed successful or to identify where others have failed.

Processes which are important to our own design analysis already suggest to us specific types of space which are appropriate for the Faculty. In particular we have noted on this page the importance of Conceptual Clarity and the process of Prototyping to our work each of which require differing types of spacial consideration. Conceptual Clarity requires quiet space for clear thinking away from outside distraction whereas Prototyping requires making spaces which are inherently busy leading to conflicting requirements. These contradictions require proper analysis to ensure both vibrant and contemplative workplaces result.

The new studio spaces should be open, light, robust and structured, although allowing for flexibility. Good light is critical. Services and the technological paraphernalia of working life should be integrated into the design in a usable but unobtrusive way. A critique of the current spaces the faculty occupies is a process that could be carried out with the involvement of staff and students, providing a clear baseline from which to work. Regular workshops with representative groups of the students and teaching staff over the course of the project would provide a soundboard of the proposals as work in progress.

In our own office, as a working process, designs are worked up in design review sessions with work being presented and critiqued for amendment and further review on a constant basis. Ongoing briefing and technical continuing professional development sessions ensure the team are kept up to date with projects in the office and technical best practice. Workshop working with the consultant team at an early stage ensures the fundamentals of the technical, logistical and financial issues are fully understood and tackled pragmatically from the outset. This allows the vision of the architecture to be matched to the constraints which frame each project.



## PROTOTYPING

A key design studio tool is the development of bespoke design detail solutions through an interactive process of making prototypes. The Athlone Civic Centre project required passive cooling of its south facing glazing to ensure a sustainable environmental strategy could be achieved. These needed to be consistent with the design aesthetic and maintain the quality of the internal environment.

Over a period of time several full size models were made which enable the development of a triangular reconstituted stone louvre to be developed that by reflecting light in a particular way made them appear heavy on the exterior and light on the interior. At later stages to ensure installation went smoothly a full size mock-up of a typical louvre section allowed any construction issues to be resolved before final installation. This is a process we can see being particularly valuable on the proposed building as it is a process which records development and engages the wide knowledge base in the faculty.



Prototyping from Model to Building

## UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE New Building For Faculty of Architecture and Planning



### CONCEPTUAL CLARITY

Strong conceptual frameworks for the design work we undertake underpin the decision making process throughout the inherently more technical detailed design phases of a project. By way of illustration of the principle for Wexford Opera House the acoustics of the space were the paramount qualitative and technical criteria and this provided the conceptual key to understanding the space. The notion that the space was itself a musical instrument guided the building development with the form and materiality being derived from the timber sound box of a cello and the technical support infrastructure being comparable to the technical components such as the finger board and bridge.

These concepts are developed through sketches, models, and technical assessment before arriving at the end solution. Similar testing of the basic assumption for the new Faculty building will allow clear building wide organising concepts to evolve which will form the conceptual underpinning of the whole project.



## LIVING BUILDING

### Achievements

Keith Williams Architects has won major awards for its work on sustainability including the award of RIAI Sustainable Building of the Year 2005 for Athlone Civic Centre. The firm pursues in each its projects, sustainability and environmental efficiency as a core design strategy.

### Strategy

In architectural and building terms the most sustainable building is one that is beautiful, well designed, integrates low energy use and sustainable construction at the heart of its conception, is suitable for its purpose, capable of simple adaptation/expansion and is well built. Thus it will not be redeveloped for many decades to come. KWA work with highly skilled environmental engineers on the environmental strategy such that, architecture, façade, massing, plan layout, organisation, and building control systems are fully integrated into the low energy strategy for the project.

### Low Energy Principles

Every building should be designed such that it has inherent attributes to help to maintain a stable environment. This can be achieved by various means such as:

- Increasing the exposed thermal mass to provide night time cooling and to avoid large temperature swings
- by careful design e.g. solar screening, orientation, shading canopies etc, reducing the amount of direct solar gain into the building through glazing using natural ventilation wherever possible
- providing enhanced levels of air tightness to reduce heat gain/loss through infiltration

### Sustainability Matrix

To determine which measures most suit any given building, at the design stage KWA works with Environmental Consultants to prepare a sustainability matrix as a tool for assessing how viable different sustainability options are. This matrix categorises various sustainable options ((renewable energy sources – see below) rain water harvesting, grey water re-cycling, etc.) into 'Good Practice', 'Best Practice', 'Innovative' and 'Pioneering'. This then provides a useful framework for assessing which options to pursue and how far to pursue them.

### Renewable Energy Sources

Viable sources of renewable energy such as wind power, biomass, photo-voltaic cells, etc. are all considered and assessed as part of the project evolution.

### Materials

Materials and construction techniques, taking into account durability, sustainability, and energy in transit are key factors analysed during the design process, to limit the embedded energy in KWA's buildings to a minimum.

### Lighting

Lighting systems can account for up to 40% of a building's energy in use. KWA work with the best consultants to ensure specification of the lowest appropriate energy luminaries for each project to greatly reduce this figure.

### Environmental Conditions

Inevitably, there will be parts of a building which requires mechanical systems. In those areas, high efficiency plant should be used with heat recovery. Alternative methods, such as bore hole cooling, night time ventilation, ground coupling, etc. should be considered as alternatives to, or in conjunction with, more conventional systems. The sense that individuals can control the environment by simply opening a window or vent is empowering and relieves frustration. This principle could be extended to cover many aspects of the buildings environmental systems.

### Empirical Testing and Accreditation

Aside from minimum compliance standards contained in the Building Code of Australia the project should be subject to rigorous environmental performance testing both during the design period and in use. Systems such as the Green Star Rating should target level five 'Australian Excellence' or six 'World Leadership'. Possibly the aim should be to exceed these benchmarks.

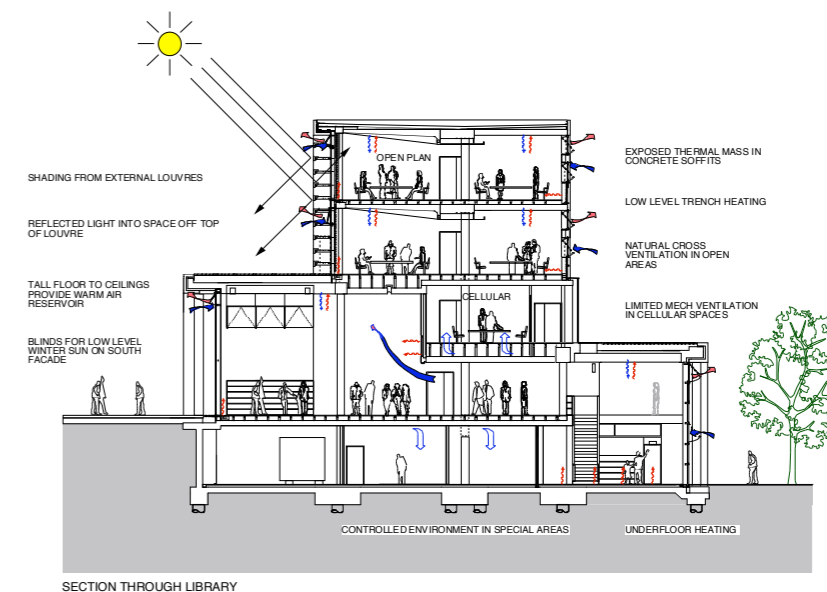
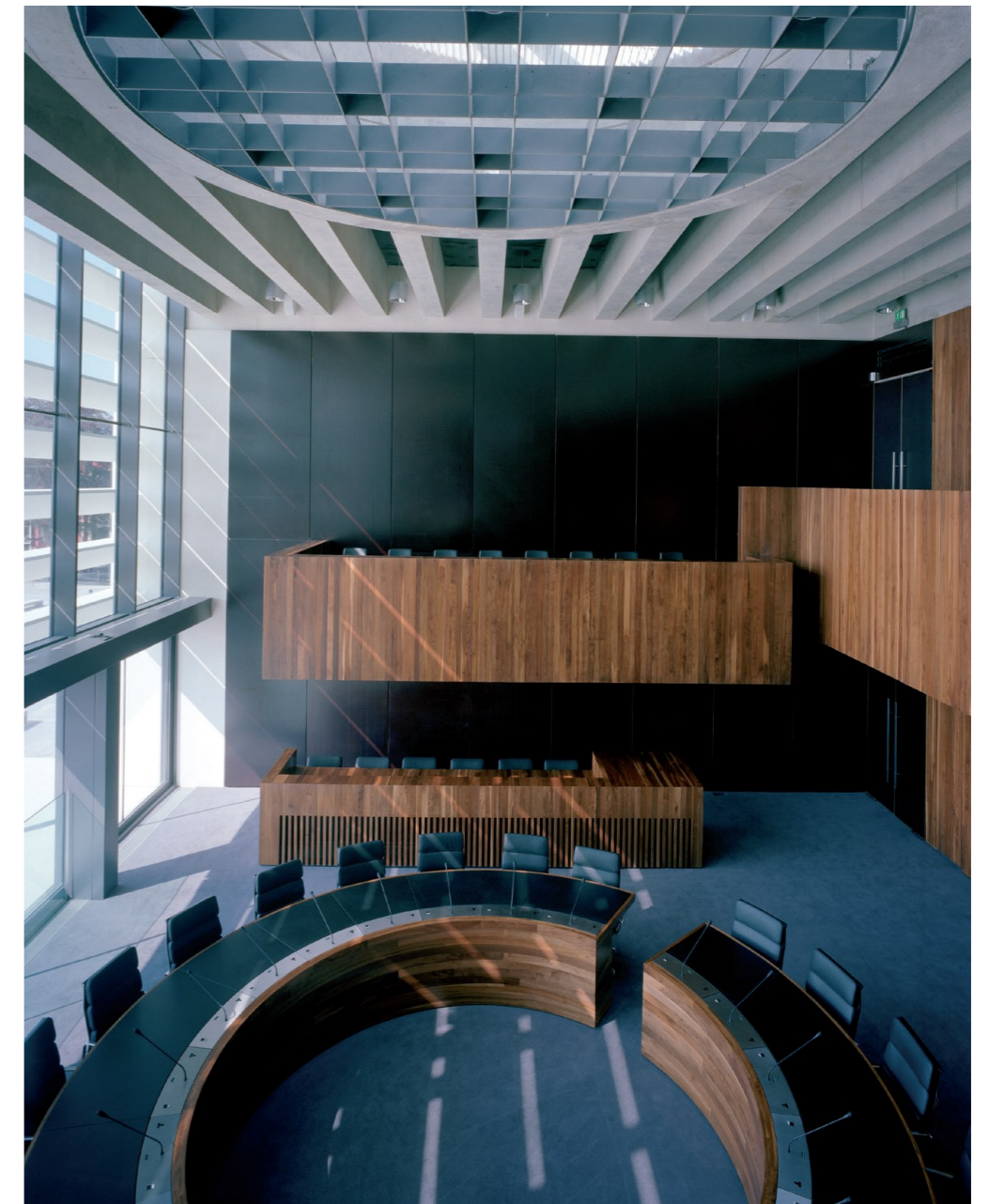


## RIAI SUSTAINABLE BUILDING OF THE YEAR 2005

Project Title : Athlone Civic Offices & Public Library  
 Client : Athlone Town & Westmeath County Councils  
 Design Programme : Nov 2000 - Oct 2002  
 Construction Programme : Nov 2002 - Sept 2004  
 Budget : €15.6 million / £10.53 million  
 Area : 4,200 sqm



## UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE New Building For Faculty of Architecture and Planning



## CAPABILITY AND PROCESS

Keith Williams Architects is experienced at delivering large, complex and particularly bespoke buildings to tight budgets and timescales. KWA has a 20+ strong team which currently comprises the two directors, 20 architectural staff with administrative support in addition. The office maintains a small number of larger building projects at any one time of a scale of up to 40,000 sqm floor plate (£200m). The firm is expanding gradually as part of a managed growth of the business based upon only undertaking high profile, high quality projects enabling the firm's core tenet of architectural excellence to be maintained.

We are experienced with delivering projects at distance with most of our work being located many miles from our London base. This has the positive effect of instilling a rigor in the design process and helps focus the discussions during face to face meetings and site visits. Technology now allows the exchange of drawings instantly via pooled virtual plan chests where the contributors are often dislocated. There is a wide pool of architectural talent based in London of many different nationalities. We are therefore able to draw from a broad mix of cultures to enrich each project and allow us to understand each locality fully.

### Delivering the Project

We believe that our potential to offer new ideas and ways of thinking about the issues this challenging brief presents, from an international perspective, is a strong contribution to bring to the project and that regulatory compliance is best resolved with a considered joint venture at the appropriate time.

Discussions have been held with a number of well respected practices located in Melbourne and it is apparent that there are several technically expert practices with the local resource to assist in delivering this project. When the appointments of the remaining consultant team are made with the client we would then engage in a collective process of aligning ourselves with a chosen Victoria State Registered practice to meet the registration requirements with whom we are all content.

We would anticipate that director level staff from KWA would spend significant blocks of time in Melbourne carrying out workshops and design liaison in all phases of the design development working with the client from inception to completion. The longer term development work would be managed by embedding experienced members of our team within our Melbourne based joint venture partner.

We are registered with the RIBA as individuals and as a practice and carry significant P.I. this would be offered via legal agreement with our chosen associate architect.

### Client References

#### WEXFORD OPERA HOUSE

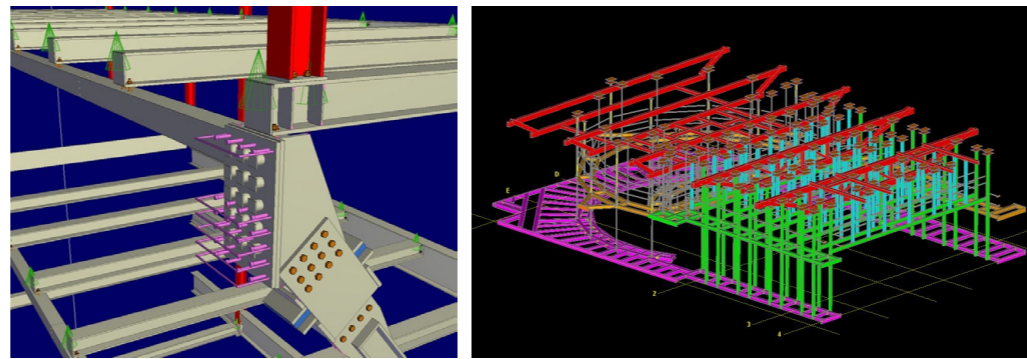
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The new 7,500 sqm Festival Opera House by Keith Williams Architects with the Dublin based OPW Architects (Office of Public Works) is Ireland's most important current arts project. The prestigious new building has been constructed in the heart of the medieval town, on the site of the Festival's former theatre. It contains the new main opera house (780 seats) which completely lined in black walnut, full flytower and backstage and a transformable second space of 175 seats, together with rehearsal, production facilities, bars, café and foyer spaces. The building was opened by Mr Brian Cowen TD An Taoiseach (Prime Minister) 5 September 2008

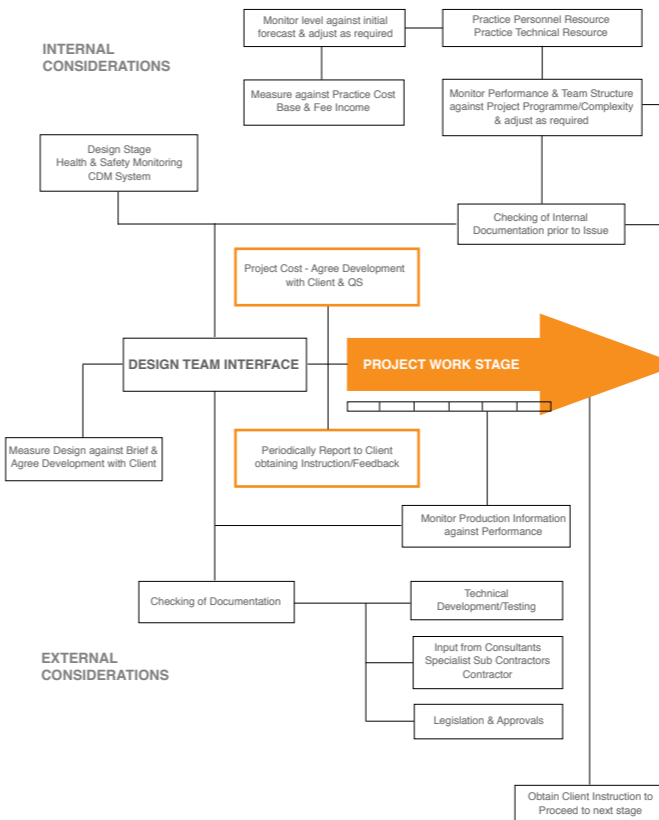
#### ATHLONE CIVIC CENTRE

John Walsh: Town Clerk  
ATHLONE TOWN COUNCIL  
Civic Centre,  
Church St., Athlone Co.  
Westmeath, Ireland  
Tel : 00 353 (0) 9064 42100  
Email : jwalsh@athloneudc.ie

Athlone's multi-award winning 4,200 sqm Civic Centre houses the town library, executive offices, debating chamber, and public hall. Situated opposite St Mary's Church and Jacobean Tower it is the focal project of a strategic masterplan for the regeneration of the central portion of Athlone. Starting on site in October 2002, the completed project opened in September 2004 to great public acclaim. The project has won ten major design awards and commendations including RIAI Best Sustainable Project 2005, and has been extensively featured in the international press.



### DESIGN MANAGEMENT PROCESS

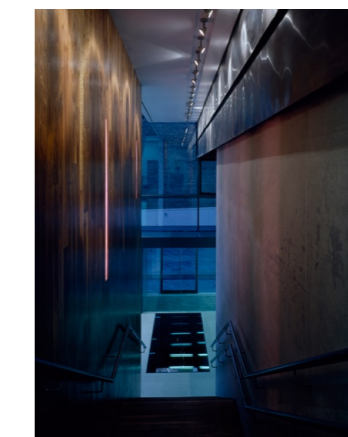


## UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE New Building For Faculty of Architecture and Planning

A unique arts project, won in European wide competition, was shortlisted for the 2006 Stirling Prize (penultimate round). The new build scheme which has been completed, provides a 350 seat theatre, a theatre studio, education, rehearsal spaces, and public café. Technically the small site required an exceptionally compact solution. The buildings detailed design involved an intricate stitching together of the structural and infrastructural requirements into an efficient three dimensional solution.

This is typical of the "whole building" approach required in delivering the complex building types with which we work and requires a clear and frank liaison process with both the design team and client body.

Project Title : Unicorn Theatre  
Client : Unicorn Children's Centre Ltd  
Programme : 2003 - 2005  
Budget : €14.75 million / £10 million Area  
Area : 3,650 sqm



CAPABILITY / PROCESS

keith williams architects

**MERIT**

Keith Williams Architects launched in January 2001 by Keith Williams and Richard Brown has become a major emergent force in British architecture. Keith Williams outstanding architectural creativity, is supported by his ability to present schemes clearly and effectively to clients, planning authorities and the public. He is very experienced in working with complex client organisations, project steering groups, public sector clients, boards of trustees, and in undertaking complex consultation procedures.

Keith Williams Architects have an established reputation of working at the highest level of architectural practice internationally. Our record of design excellence includes the firm's completed major projects such as Athlone Library & Civic Centre (10 major awards and commendations) which resulted in a threefold increase in library use within the town, and the Unicorn Theatre which provided one of the few purpose built arts facilities for children in the UK. Our most recently completed project is the award winning Wexford Opera House which opened to international acclaim in October 2008 and successfully dealt with the technical restrictions of the site to provide an acoustic of the highest quality internationally. All of our projects work extremely well for their intended purpose achieving a very high degree of user satisfaction and are published worldwide. The practice has been twice awarded UK Public Building of the Year in recognition of its consistent output of exceptional designs.

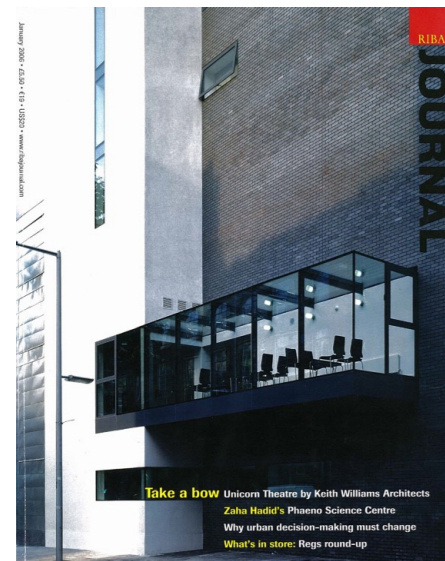
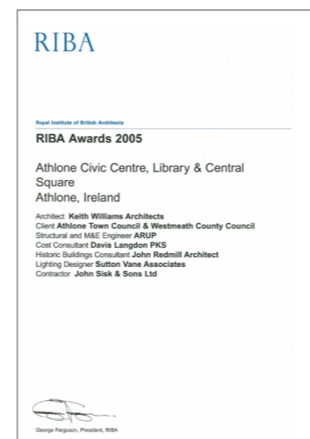
Keith Williams has taught widely and delivered many guest lectures on the firms work. He has judged national design awards, won numerous national and international architectural competitions, and he has acted as architectural assessor to competition juries. He has judged national design awards and won numerous architectural awards, both national and international. His work has been published worldwide. He has been made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and is a Member of the National Design Review Panel at Commission for Architecture in the Built Environment a government appointed body which advises on the quality of the major proposals in the UK.

**UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE**  
New Building For Faculty of Architecture and Planning

keith williams architects

**AWARDS**

- 2009**  
Irish Times Special Jury Award  
Wexford Opera House Award Winner
- 2008**  
OPUS Awards  
Wexford Opera House Award Winner
- BD Public Building Architect of the Year  
Keith Williams Architects Award Winner
- Chicago Athenaeum International Architecture Prize  
Unicorn Theatre International Award Winner
- RIBA Awards 2008  
The Long House Award Winner
- World Architecture News House of the Year  
The Long House International Finalist
- 2007**  
Copper in Architecture Awards 13  
Unicorn Theatre UK Award Winner
- RIAI Awards : Best House Award  
The Long House National Award Winner
- USITT Award  
Unicorn Theatre Award Winner
- 2006**  
BD Public Building Architect of the Year  
Keith Williams Architects Award Winner
- Stirling Prize Nomination (Penultimate Round)  
Unicorn Theatre Shortlisted
- RIBA Awards 2006  
Unicorn Theatre Award Winner
- Chicago Athenaeum International Architecture Prize  
Athlone Civic Centre International Award Winner
- RIAI Awards 2006 RIAI Overseas Award  
Unicorn Theatre Award Winner
- Irish Concrete Society Awards 2006  
Athlone Civic Centre Overall Award Winner
- AAI Awards 2006  
Athlone Civic Centre Special Mention
- 2005**  
Opus Architecture & Construction Awards  
Athlone Civic Centre Award Winner
- RIBA Awards 2005 RIBA European Award  
Athlone Civic Centre Award Winner
- RIAI Awards 2005 : Special Award  
Athlone Civic Centre Award Winner
- Best Sustainable Project  
Athlone Civic Centre Award Winner
- RIAI Awards 2005  
Athlone Civic Centre Award Winner
- Lighting Design Awards 2005  
Athlone Civic Centre Award Winner  
Best Exterior Lighting Project



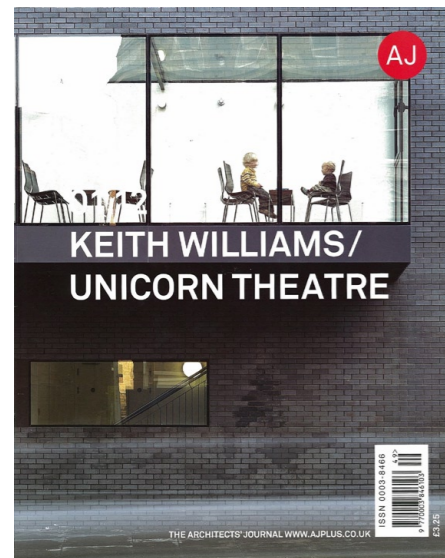
RIBA Journal : January 2006



Architecture Ireland : October 2008



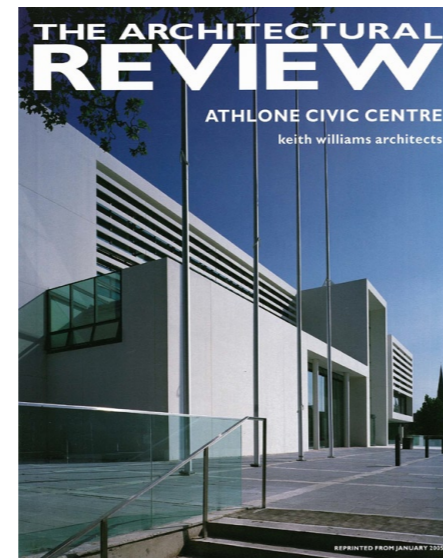
Concept : April 2005



Architects' Journal : December 2005



Architects' Journal : October 2008



The Architectural Review : January 2005

**MERIT**