

MERIT

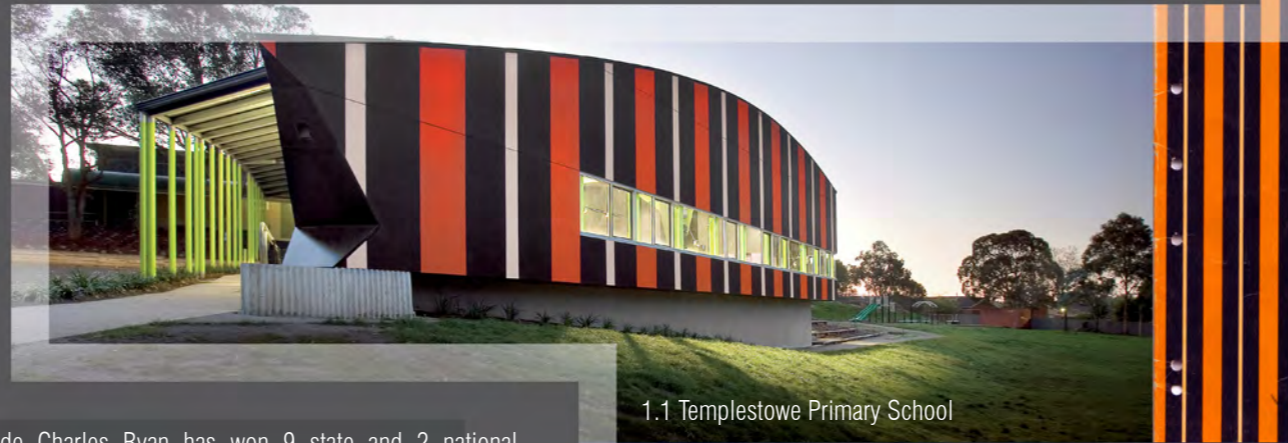
We applaud the University of Melbourne's ambition for the new building for the faculty of Architecture Building and Planning. In extending the expression of interest process internationally, the university has availed itself to the best the world can offer in architecture & design and can embrace the 'once in a lifetime' opportunity to produce a 'once in a lifetime' building.

We Australians like to say that we are among the world's best – it has become a cliché that assists in distracting us from our national insecurities and papers over the cracks of a reality that lurches from overblown hubris to hapless inadequacy. Yet we hold that no nation has a monopoly on creativity. Rather, what we find is that the factors contributing to the emergence of movements displaying the best of a profession or field result from the depth of the culture in which determined groups and individuals locate themselves. Melbourne is key exemplar of what has come to be termed a "Design City". Our local architectural culture is significant and, pound for pound, lags behind few major international cities.

The explosion of architectural publishing (both print and digital) over the past decade could mislead one into believing that architecture has become a purely global discussion. We understand that ideas are 'in the air' and they travel quickly – indeed we embrace the possibilities manifest in contemporary communications – however what we consider critical to making architecture truly resonate is the manner with which it responds to the specificity of its condition and milieu.

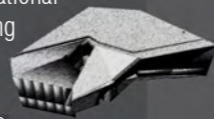
And so to us, McBride Charles Ryan: a firm that is local, fecund, unpredictable and unaligned. We believe we offer a sort of 'local test' or 'comparative study'. How significant is this local culture of design when presented head-to-head with the best internationally? How smart are we in fact? How smart do we need to become? How important is this capacity to understand and absorb a city's history, culture and aspirations in order to make a new building sing? And specifically in regard to the new ABP, how can this culture be identified and expressed to enhance the implementation of a 'Melbourne Model'?

McBride Charles Ryan is a uniquely 'Melbourne' entity – an architectural practice that for 20 years has produced startlingly innovative buildings, often on meagre budgets. While our projects now receive international attention, they maintain their attention to specificity and local character. These projects revel in their originality, yet they are borne out of a distinctly Melbourne architectural and cultural milieu. Over our 20 years in practice, our work has grown steadily in its size and complexity to where we now have now developed high-level expertise in education, housing, infrastructure and workplace projects.



1.1 Templestowe Primary School

McBride Charles Ryan has won 9 state and 2 national Institute of Architects awards across the categories of housing, commercial and public building types. We have featured in RRR-FM's annual list of top ten buildings in each of the last 4 years (twice with multiple citations). One of our projects was shortlisted in the World Architecture Awards in 2008. Twice we have been exhibited at the Venice Biennale for architecture. Our work has featured in numerous articles and publications. With an increase of international awareness of our practice, in the last year alone our most recently completed works (Monaco House and Klein Bottle) has featured in more than 20 international publications. While clearly participating in a global architectural dialogue, we contend that the international interest in our work is based precisely in its exploration of specificity of place and local lineage. Because our architecture actively pursues its expression from the particularity of each project at hand, it is inherently singular. The works are distinct and strive to attain a synergy with the identity of the institution they serve. In doing so, they serve to enhance an institution's image and project its values.



1.2 QV7



1.3 Cave House



Following are KEY AWARDS (a full list of awards and publications is available on the MCR website www.mcbridecharlesryan.com.au).

- 2008
AIA – National
Commercial Award
Monaco House
- AIA – National
Robyn Boyd Award for New Residential Architecture
Klein Bottle House
- AIA – Victorian Chapter
Sir Osborn McCutcheon Award for Commercial Architecture
Monaco House, Melbourne
- AIA – Victorian Chapter
Harold Desbrowe-Anneer Award for Residential Architecture
Klein Bottle House, Rye
- Finalist – Melbourne Award
Monaco House
- Victorian Premier's Design Mark
Commercial Architecture
Monaco House

- 2006
RAIA – Victorian Chapter
New Residential Architecture Award:
'Cave House' Kent Court
- 2005
RAIA - Victorian Chapter
Victorian Architecture Medal:
(Awarded to the Building judged to be the best of the year in Victoria)
Templestowe Primary School Multi-Purpose Hall
- RAIA - Victorian Chapter
William Wardell Award Institutional Architecture Award
(Awarded to the Public Building judged to be the best of the year in Victoria)
Templestowe Primary School Multi-Purpose Hall
- RAIA – Victorian Chapter
Multi-Residential Architecture Award:
QV7 Apartment Building

- RAIA – Victorian Chapter
New Residential Architecture Award:
'Dome House' Narveno Court

- 2001
RAIA – Victorian Chapter
Architecture Award
Residential – Multiple
10 Houses, Wynnstey Road
- 1998
RAIA – Victorian Chapter
Harold Desbrowe-Anneer Award
(Awarded to the Residential Building judged to be the best of the year in Victoria)
Residential
Ivanhoe Project
- RAIA – Victorian Chapter
Award of Merit
Residential – New
Mount Martha House.

- RAIA – Victorian Chapter
Commendation
Commercial – Alterations & Extensions Award
Petruccelli Studio
- NAWIC
Victorian Awards of Excellence
Debbie Lyn Ryan : outstanding achievement in Design



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BUILT PEDAGOGY

MCR have developed significant expertise in the design of new learning environments. Our designs for educational environments provide spaces facilitating different modes of learning while remaining centred on the individual learner. Moreover, our projects attempt to go beyond mere space planning to harness the three-dimensional power of design to improve each learning environment. Whilst actively engaged in the emerging orthodoxy of pedagogical design, what distinguishes our educational work from the 'pattern book' is the exquisite tailoring of our architecture to suit the particularities of each client and their unique pedagogy and vision.

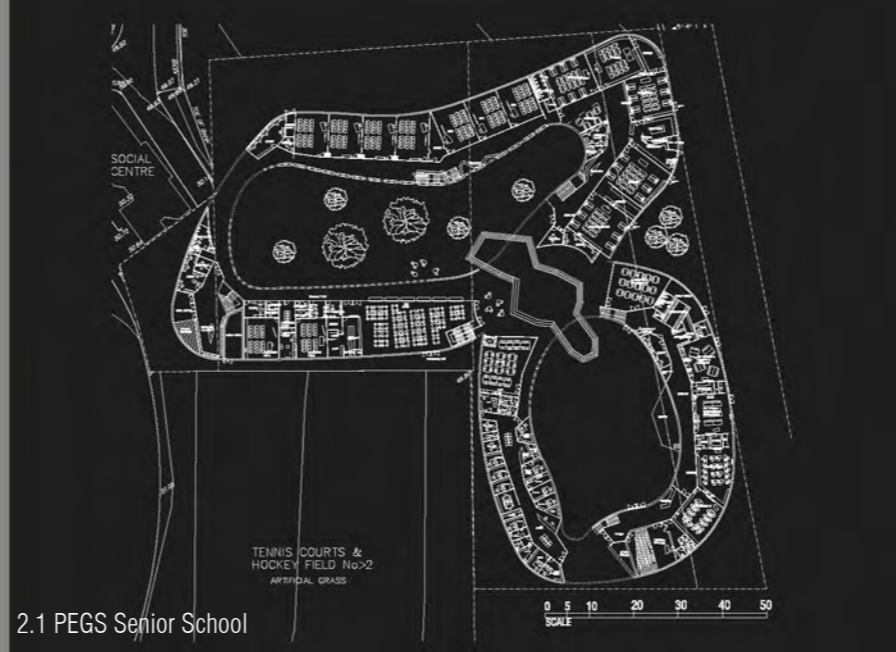
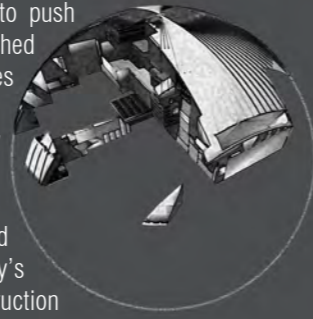
Fitzroy High School (Fig. 2.3, 4.2) is a key example of how a new studio-based pedagogy can feed into, and inform in a very potent way, a new architectural plan and form. Both the Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School (PEGS) new senior school campus (Fig. 2.1, 4.3, 6.1) and the Dallas Upfield Primary School (Fig. 3.2) are equally individual architectural responses to unique stakeholder pedagogies.

The proposed new building for the faculty of Architecture Building and Planning represents an extraordinary opportunity to provide a tertiary educational facility that is an exemplar to the world. Beautifully crafted, finely tuned and bespoke architecture can be the physical embodiment of creativity, intellectual curiosity and the highest standards of constructional expertise. The building can send a powerful message about the fundamental principles of the University of Melbourne's ABP. We like to think that as a practice we ensure all our work is of outstanding appearance and performance, a fact witnessed by the extremely high proportion of our projects that have been applauded and awarded. Our office has no 'off' days.

Our projects betray our obsession with urban connectivity. This is true regardless of scale, from small houses (Fig. 2.2) to large urban projects (Fig. 1.2, 2.4, 6.4). These buildings respond intuitively and specifically to their location and use. They don't tread lightly but seek with intent to alter for the better the urbanism in which they sit. They achieve a delicate balance in being simultaneously sensitive and bold. The new building for the faculty of Architecture Building and Planning will by necessity be viewed as an object in the round, viewed and approached from all sides. A key determinant to the success of the design will be the coherence with which it presents itself as an iconic and singular element whilst relating positively to the specificity of its campus and urban adjacencies

The work of MCR seeks to push the boundaries of established technologies and promotes the investigation and development of new construction techniques and servicing. The new ABP would be designed to embody the university's vision for research in construction and architecture and would therefore be used as a model and exemplar to drive the industry forward. With the new ABP McBride Charles Ryan would pursue a profound and poetic integration of the natural and built form. MCR have achieved just this in completed projects such as the radical home at Narveno Court (Fig. 5.3). Our ambition for the new ABP would be to develop a new type of university building, neither purely as modernist object nor as historical cloister but rather as a critical interpretation somewhere between the two, a true integration of garden and occupied space. (Fig. 1.3)

A further development of this would be the careful orchestration of permeability through the programmed requirements (exhibition/ studio/ selected teaching spaces/ breakout and informal spaces) and the circulation paths, enlivening the building and enhancing integration of the disciplines (Fig. 4.1, 2.1). MCR would see the building as a teaching tool in itself in the design and construction process and the pedagogical possibilities of this would be enhanced through an adherence to comprehensive and sophisticated Building Information Modelling.



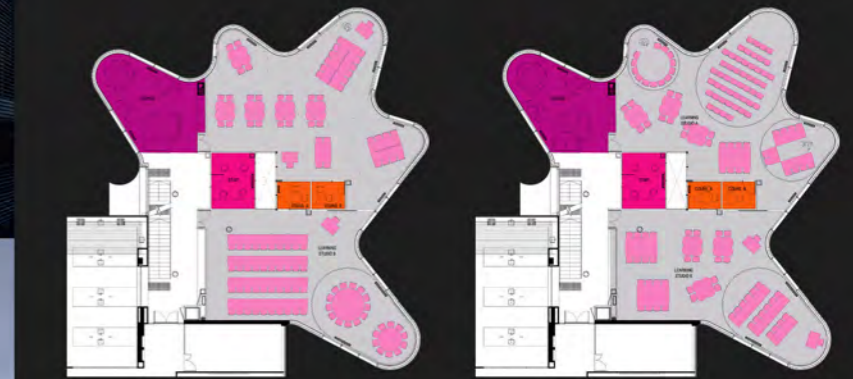
2.1 PEGS Senior School



2.3 Fitzroy High School



2.2 Letterbox House



2.4 QV



2.5 Monaco House

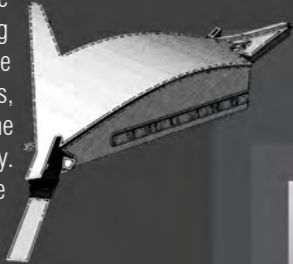
THE ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

McBride Charles Ryan were awarded the Osborne McCutcheon award for commercial architecture by the Australian Institute of Architects in 2008 for the outstanding work environment of Monaco House (Fig. 2.5, 3.1).

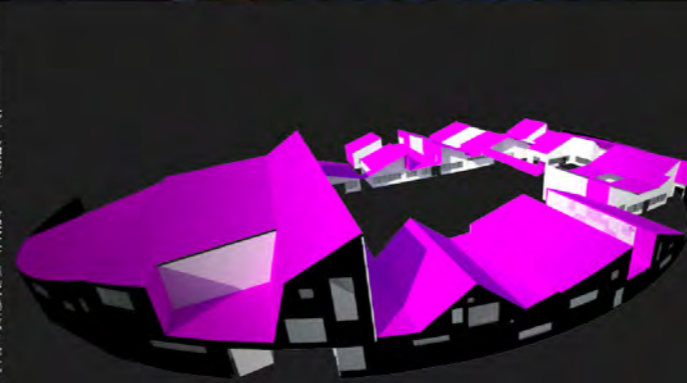
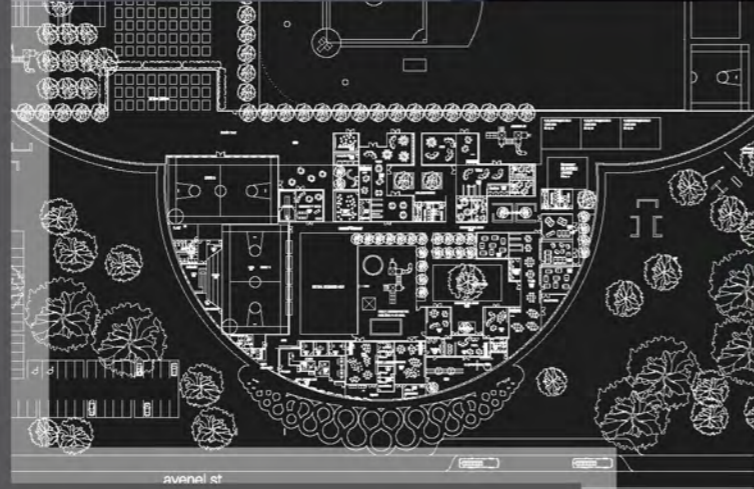
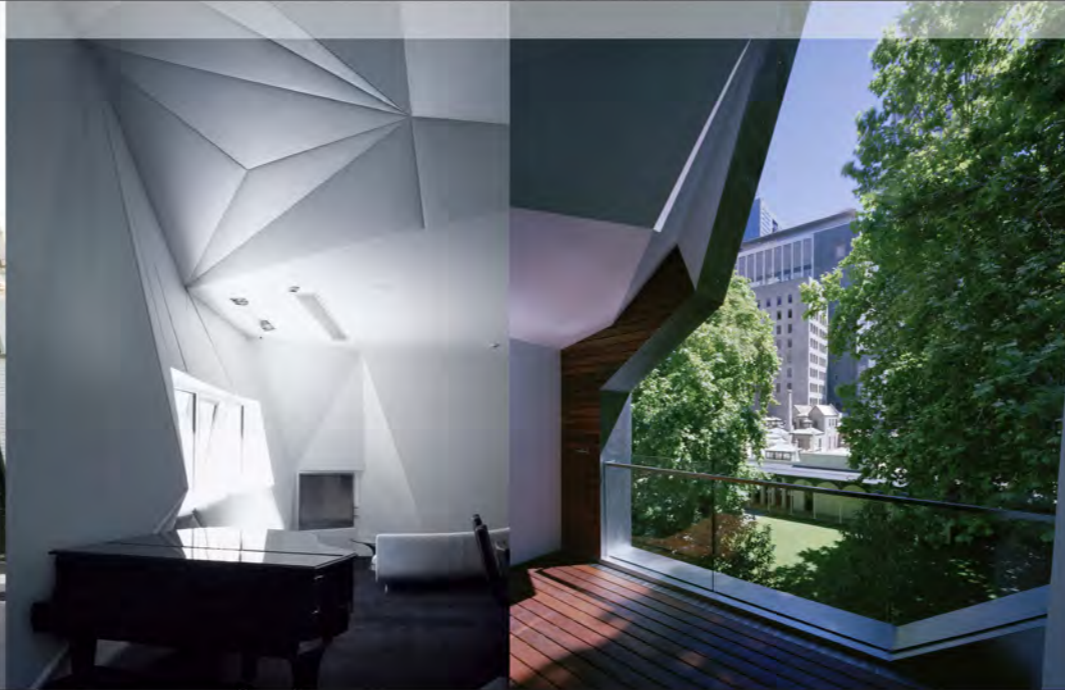
Like Monaco House the new building for the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning must deliver exceptional workspaces in order to achieve world class teaching and research outcomes. In achieving this, the design of the building must incorporate the best and latest thinking about the work environment. This is especially critical at the conceptual planning stages where competing or conflicting requirements, such as access to light and air and maintaining visual or acoustic privacy, require rigorous testing and investigation. Further complicating this will be the requirement for the spaces in the new ABP to maintain an agility in accommodating future needs and the capacity to recognize short and long term flexibility through mechanical and integral change options (Fig. 2.3).

While a diversity of workspaces are likely to be briefed (such as from the private to the communal, the formal to the informal, the active to the passive or from the heavily to the lightly serviced) it is the capacity to organize these spaces in an accessible, rational and aesthetic way that will be a significant challenge. Critical to achieving this will be the manner with which the building is organised to encourage both formal and informal (accidental) interaction between staff and among students. In doing so, the building could be seen to foster open dialogue and encourage a culture of collective inquiry (Fig. 3.3).

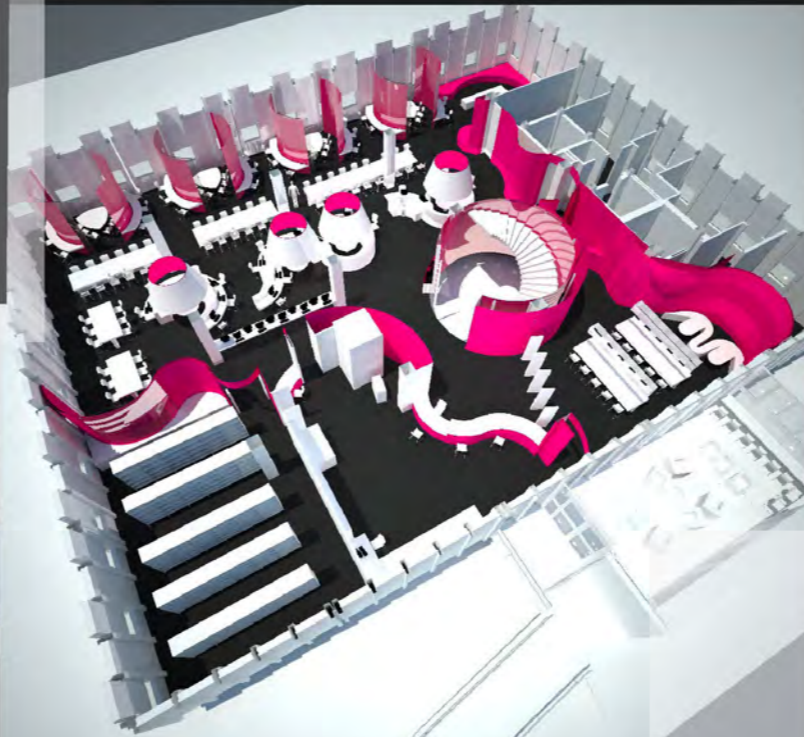
We see a number of important ways in which the new ABP can act to attract the best academic, research and professional staff both locally and internationally. Sometimes the obvious needs to be stated however, so in addition to providing an internal workplace environment to benchmark standards one cannot neglect the fact the ABP has to be an inherently 'architectural' building. By this we mean that it must have a powerful architectural intrigue and appeal to what will undoubtedly be a very discerning and critical audience. It would be insufficient therefore for the new ABP to simply be an adequate, well-performing building or pale version of a more significant edifice elsewhere. This project needs to be far more ambitious, tapping into what the University of Melbourne and the city of Melbourne are in a very iconic and profound way. It has to embody and be emblematic of the Melbourne experience and Melbourne Model.



3.1 Monaco House



3.2 Dallas Upfield Primary School



3.3 Brownless Library, University of Melbourne



THE DESIGN STUDIO

The studio is at the heart of the new school for the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning. Accordingly, the design of the studios and how they are embedded into the overall configuration require an outstanding planning strategy. These studio spaces will inform the development of a new studio culture within the school and the diversity of settings they provide will, to a large degree, influence how the students perceive of themselves within that culture. Studio culture must encourage interaction and a cross-fertilization of ideas, yet allow for adequate visual and acoustic privacy. Its aim is to foster a culture of work and encourage ambition (Fig 4.3, 4.1).

In recent educational projects across primary, secondary and tertiary levels, McBride Charles Ryan have engaged with contemporary theories of studio and classroom design. Working closely with facilitators such as Dr Kenn Fisher of Rubida Research, Dr Peter Jamieson and teams of stakeholders, MCR has tailored these new studio-centred environments to meet the particular needs of their users (Fig. 3.2). McBride Charles Ryan are also a member of the ARC linkage Grant Project "Smart Green Schools" and have access to the latest global theory, thinking and research in the relationship of space to learning. In engaging with

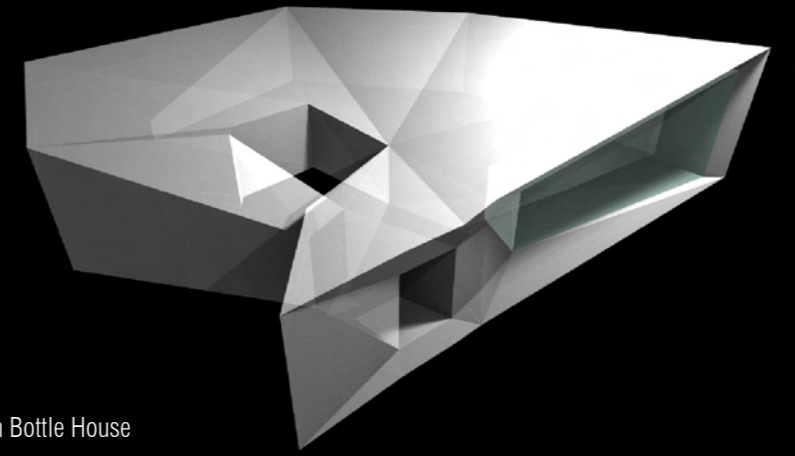
this field of research MCR never abrogate their responsibility to design beautiful spaces or their belief in the importance of the beautiful environment to enhance wellbeing and productivity (Fig 4.3, 5.1).

Without doubt technology has profoundly changed the nature of work and learning. Designers must recognize the power, potential and portability of new technologies as it continues to redefine what a space for learning can be and the way students and staff interact and exchange information. As technology dissolves the traditional classroom, designers must constantly question what spaces we replace these with.

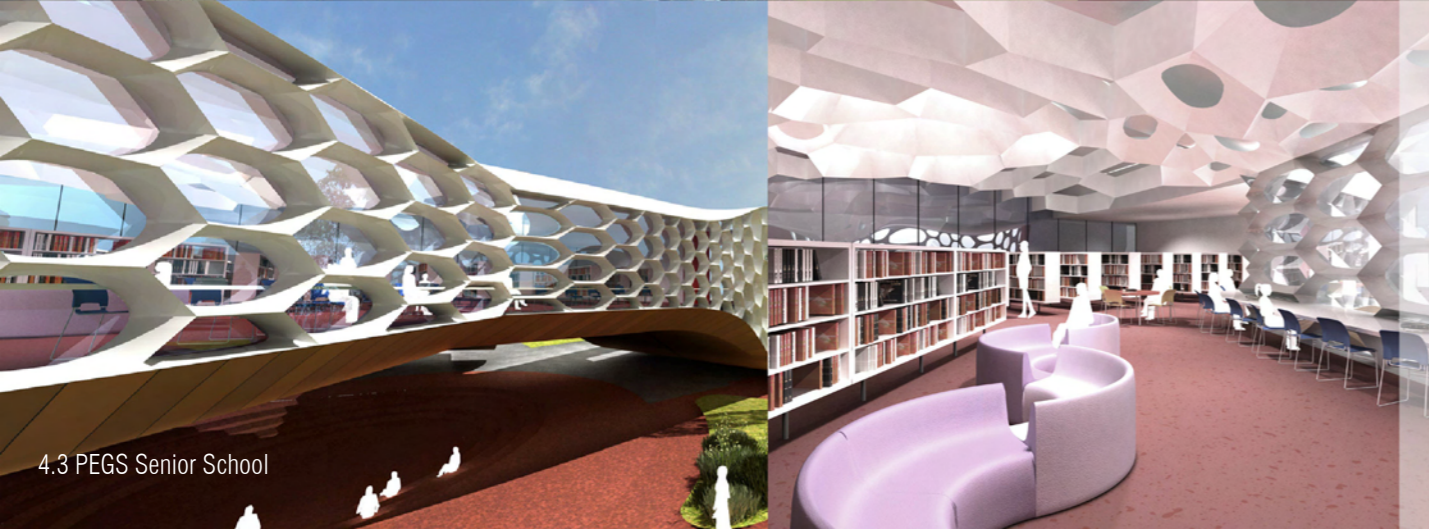


THE BOTTLE WITH NO INSIDE
This model of a Klein bottle, which has "no inside", is based on topologist Abraham W. Tucker of Princeton University. Nobody will ever see an actual Klein bottle because it exists only in the topologist's imagination. A true Klein bottle passes through itself without the existence of a hole which is of course a physical impossibility.

4.1 Klein Bottle House



4.2 Fitzroy High School



4.3 PEGS Senior School

The new ABP, like many of the education projects MCR is now working on, needs to encourage immersion and dispersal of staff and students, to reduce hierarchy and division and encourage casual and accidental interaction. It should positively exploit important technological developments to encourage understanding and interaction, however it must equally understand the continued importance of the more traditional use of the eye and hand in the creative and architectural design process. There is no satisfactory built precedent for the studios required by the new ABP. Not unlike

our design for the Fitzroy High School these studios must be simultaneously low- and high-tech: a beautiful, creative and messy space, that is agile, adaptable and comfortable, but still maintains the highest technological sophistication (Fig. 2.3).



THE LIVING BUILDING

In our work we attempt to turn the opportunities presented by utility into beauty. This is true of our approach to sustainability. Rather than approach sustainable design as a typological toolkit of predefined forms we focus on principles underlying environmental performance. By understanding the physics of passive environmental design we are able to integrate performance targets into the overall design process, identifying opportunities for enhancement which are integral to the design. We would see the design as an opportunity to positively apply the physics of the natural world in order to enhance human joy and comfort.

The built fabric of the University of Melbourne is perhaps best described as in equal measure both the traditional cloister model and the hermetic modernist object. The new ABP should be neither of these. It demands to be a new type, a symbiosis with the natural and built world proffering an ecological and ideological shift. This could be defined as a new naturalism (or perhaps more pertinently, a new artificiality) a building that doesn't attempt to mimic the natural world in its imagery yet replicates the performative qualities of living systems in the natural world.

In the PEGS senior school, MCR are working with Arup to develop passive and active environmental systems, using sophisticated software to test the building façade and structural performance and optimise user comfort. The Figure-8 plan of this building can be viewed both as an object in itself and an exploration of the courtyard model: a new hybrid type (Fig. 2.1, 4.3, 6.1).

In earlier projects such as the Dome House, Monaco House and Cave House (Fig. 5.3, 3.1, 1.3), passive principles are not merely 'clipped-on' but are ingrained into the very nature of the design, ensuring open, liveable and sustainable environments for the workplace and at home.

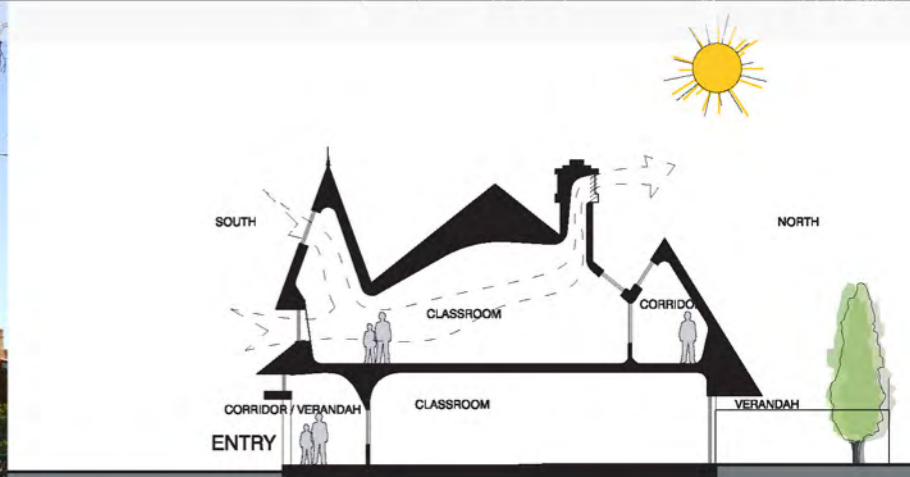
In the proposal for PEGS junior school (Fig. 5.1) the extruded silhouette of a federation home becomes the section that actively ventilates the learning environment. The 'smoking chimney' becomes a ventilation shaft and wind scoop.

In our Yardmasters project (Fig. 5.4) the railway environment necessitated a 'sealed' or 'filtered' workplace environment. In response to this we developed a sophisticated double-skin concrete external wall, consisting of exposed thermal mass internally and a thermally separated decorative external face. This building is complemented by a chilled beam conditioned air system that ensures high-level energy efficiency in operation.

In MCR's projects for Building One at the Carlton Brewery (Fig. 6.3) and PEGS senior school (Fig. 6.1) we are designing to achieve 5 star green star accreditation. Consequently, the firm is well versed in the processes and mechanisms required to achieve green star and other environmental agency ratings. In these projects significant time has gone into understanding how the users will interact with, change and monitor their environment. An understanding of human behaviour is required to determine appropriate levels of automation and personal control – what mechanisms are hidden and what

revealed, and how environmental control will evolve over the life of the building. In the BP we see great opportunities for not just high- and low-tech user environmental control but also for using the building to teach an understanding of environmental enhancement through design.

Our environments are defined not just by their space and form but rather by how light and acoustics enliven those forms. The importance of variation and diversity extends not just to program but to how that space is experienced. The generic engineering solution to these concerns is no longer acceptable (if it ever was). Questions regarding what types of learning spaces we need, regarding the varying levels of visual, thermal and acoustic comfort required and regarding how quickly these spaces can be adapted to other needs and comfort parameters, are key architectural issues to be addressed in the design for the ABP.



5.1 PEGS Junior School



5.3 Dome House



5.2 Australian Pavilion, Venice Biennale



5.4 Yardmasters' Building, Southern Cross Station



CAPABILITY AND PROCESS

McBride Charles Ryan has demonstrated an ability to complete projects up to the value of \$30m. The firm is currently working on important projects in excess of this figure (Building One, Carlton Brewery - \$35m, Fig. 6.3; Student Housing - \$32m, Fig. 6.2) including significant educational projects such as the new campus projects at Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School where the total budget will be in excess of \$55m (Fig. 6.1). The office has a proven track record in the delivery of highly successful projects through both collaborative and joint venture arrangements (Fig. 6.4: QV2 with NH Architecture). In these collaborative projects we ensured a seamless delivery to the client whilst maintaining adherence to design and construction quality throughout the delivery process.

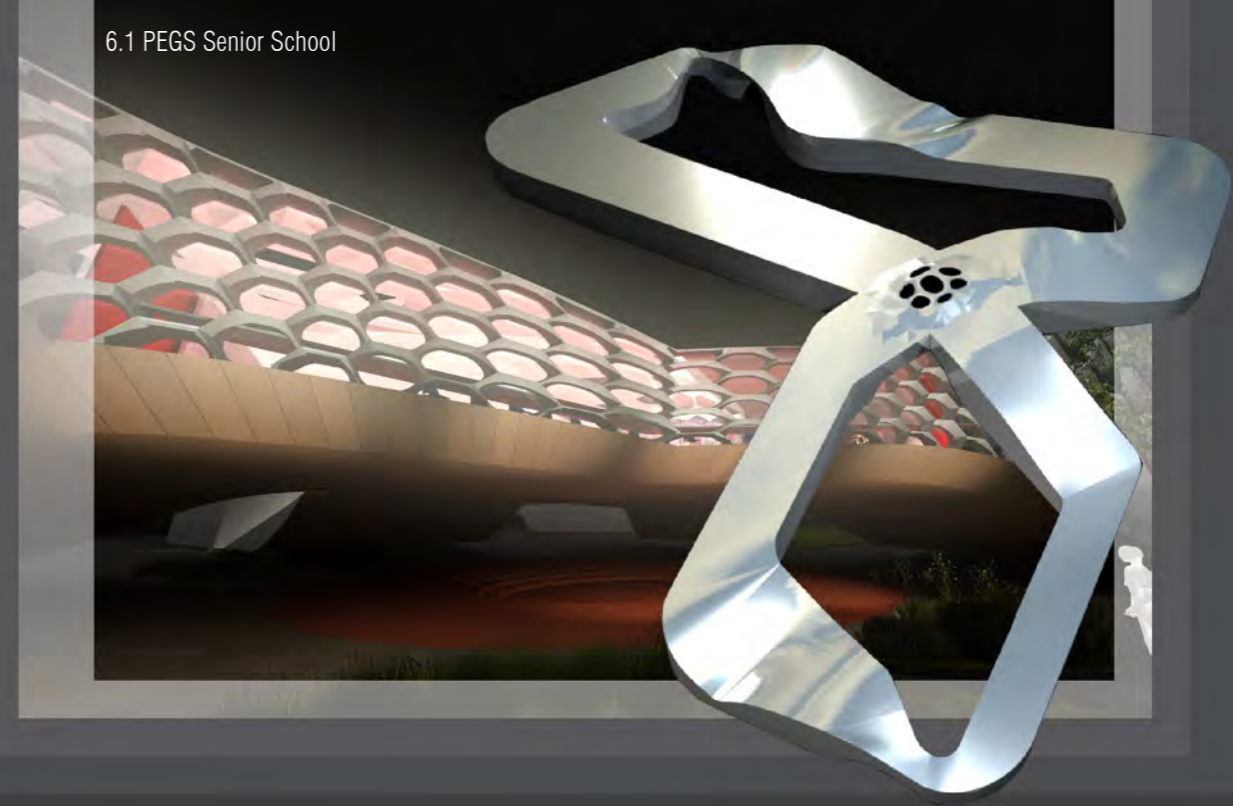
In the new ABP McBride Charles Ryan are proposing to collaborate with Architectus. We feel that their experience and capacity complement what we have to offer to the University of Melbourne and creates an opportunity for

the new ABP to be delivered to the highest standard of BIM integration. The advantages in delivering the building through BIM are manifold and of great value through: 1. the integration with industry in the delivery of the architectural concept; 2. its use by Property and Campus Services in the ongoing management of the building, and; 3. its use and communication as a learning tool for students.

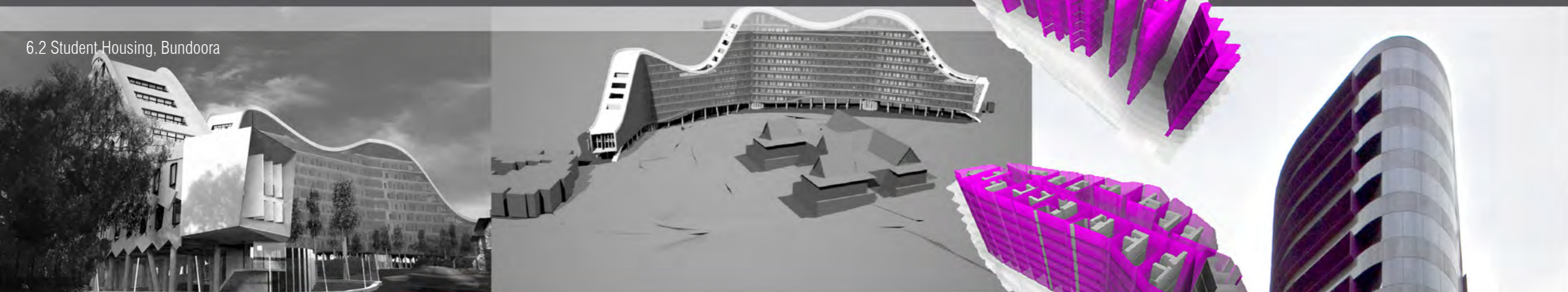
Architectus is one of few firms that have actually delivered substantial buildings entirely through a BIM platform. MCR will also draw upon the expertise of Architectus (as one of the largest offices in the Southern Hemisphere) to add value to the design stages and lead the BIM documentation of this project. McBride Charles Ryan will maintain design control throughout the project and the MCR team will be significant and integral to the delivery of the project throughout all stages. The proposed collaboration will be structured to ensure a seamless entity interfaces with the Principal, PCG and stakeholder groups.

McBride Charles Ryan has a proven ability to work with complex stakeholders while still maintaining an excellent architectural result. This is particularly evident in our design for government facilities (Yardmasters' Building, Fig. 5.4), and for education projects in the primary (Dallas Primary School, Fig. 3.2) secondary (Fitzroy Highschool, Fig. 2.3; Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School, Fig. 2.1) and tertiary sectors (Melbourne University Brownless Library Refurbishment, Fig. 3.3). We understand that the delicate balancing act of documenting and responding effectively to stakeholders needs and engaging them in the process whilst still maintaining an overview of the aims and budgetary constraints of the project is paramount. MCR's skill in this area will be complemented by Architectus's unparalleled experience in the delivery of public buildings in Australia.

6.1 PEGS Senior School



6.2 Student Housing, Bundoora

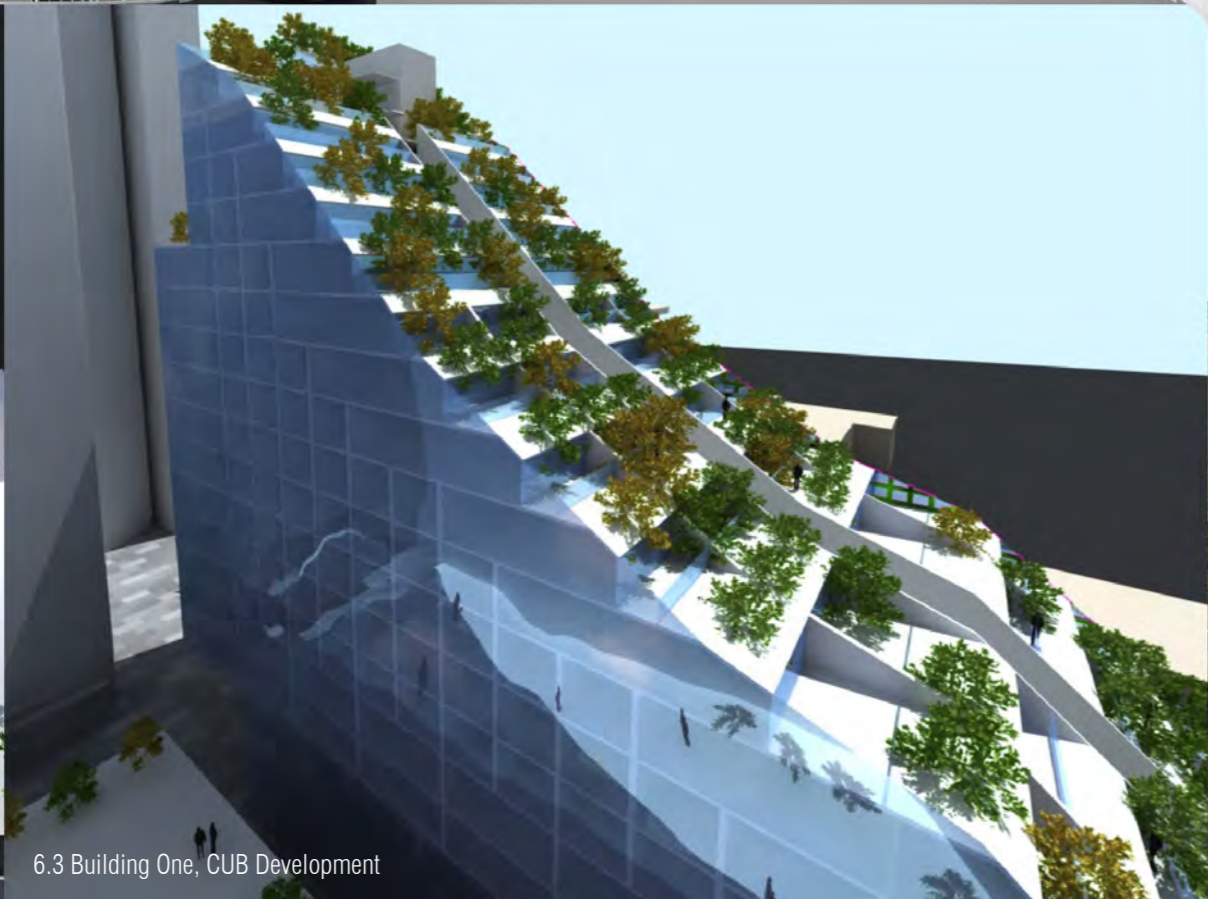


McBride Charles Ryan will

1. Engage the views and opinions of all stakeholders with an agreed structured approach.
2. Identify critical deadlines and co-ordinate their liaison process into that timeframe.
3. Document stakeholder requirements and incorporate all variations into the briefing structure as approved / agreed.
4. Communicate the design effectively.
5. Articulate the constraints, aims and aspirations of the project.
6. Articulate where stakeholders requirements contradict these constraints, aims and aspirations and suggest alternative ways forward.
7. Mediate between stakeholder groups to seek solutions that suit all.

MCR will nominate a senior key person who will be pivotal in recording and synthesizing the design vision with the detailed pragmatics of the stakeholder brief.

We advocate the inclusion of Arup Engineering in the consultant and collaborative team. Arup are currently supplying engineering across all disciplines on the Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School new senior campus for MCR and we have found the seamless, multi-disciplinary integration of engineering and architecture (and the ability to draw on the best of all disciplines internationally) invaluable on this project.



6.3 Building One, CUB Development



6.4 QV2

ARUP architectus

