

Celebrating the official opening of The Bendigo Centre

Design reflects bank culture

Public spaces encourage interaction

Bendigo Bank commissioned BVN Architecture with Gray Puksand to design the new corporate headquarters in Bendigo to house 1,000 staff.

The project was led by joint Project Directors Bill Dowzer (BVN) and Nik Tabain (GP).

The brief for the building and integrated fitout coalesces five current locations into one central facility.

As the site is located centrally in Bendigo in a heritage precinct a new masterplan was developed to integrate the building into the existing context.

In keeping with the Bank's community values, a new series of lanes cross the site and connect the Bath Lane community into the development.

Public interaction is encouraged with retail facilities at ground level and extensive public spaces, including a new public square giving the building a new address to the mall precinct. A boardwalk has been developed along the existing creek edge.

In the development of the project a strong emphasis has been placed

on creating a workplace to support the culture and aspirations of the Bank.

The building has been designed as a low rise campus, creating large floor plates connected by atriums that flood the interior work environment in natural light.

There are many environmentally sustainable initiatives in the building design. The project received COBEI (Commercial Office Building Energy Innovative Initiative) funding from Sustainability Victoria for thermal modelling, natural light illumination and alternative water management strategies in order for the building to achieve a Five Star Green Star design rating.

These are paramount in the Bank's aim to provide a leading responsible development for the community.

The building's exterior has been designed to respond to the individual orientation of each façade. The major façade to the west is adorned with coloured perforated aluminium sunscreens.

The sunscreens reduce the harsh western sun and provide a visually stimulating reading of the building.

The palate of colours represents the reds of the existing Bendigo brick buildings transitioning to the greens of the park opposite.

A saw tooth roof is orientated to the north and maximises the internal daylight while providing a dynamic form to the buildings skyline.

A separate commission was undertaken to incorporate artistic elements into the urban landscape surrounding the building.

This project design was led by Sharon Francis (BVN). The Lyric Square interpretive art installation references the historic past of the site over the last two centuries culminating in the Lyric Theatre dramatically burning down in 1968. A series of plinths display text by local historian Edith Lunn, describing the past lives of the site.

Project Team

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