

2016 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Ulumbarra Theatre

Bendigo Senior Secondary College

Category: Renovation

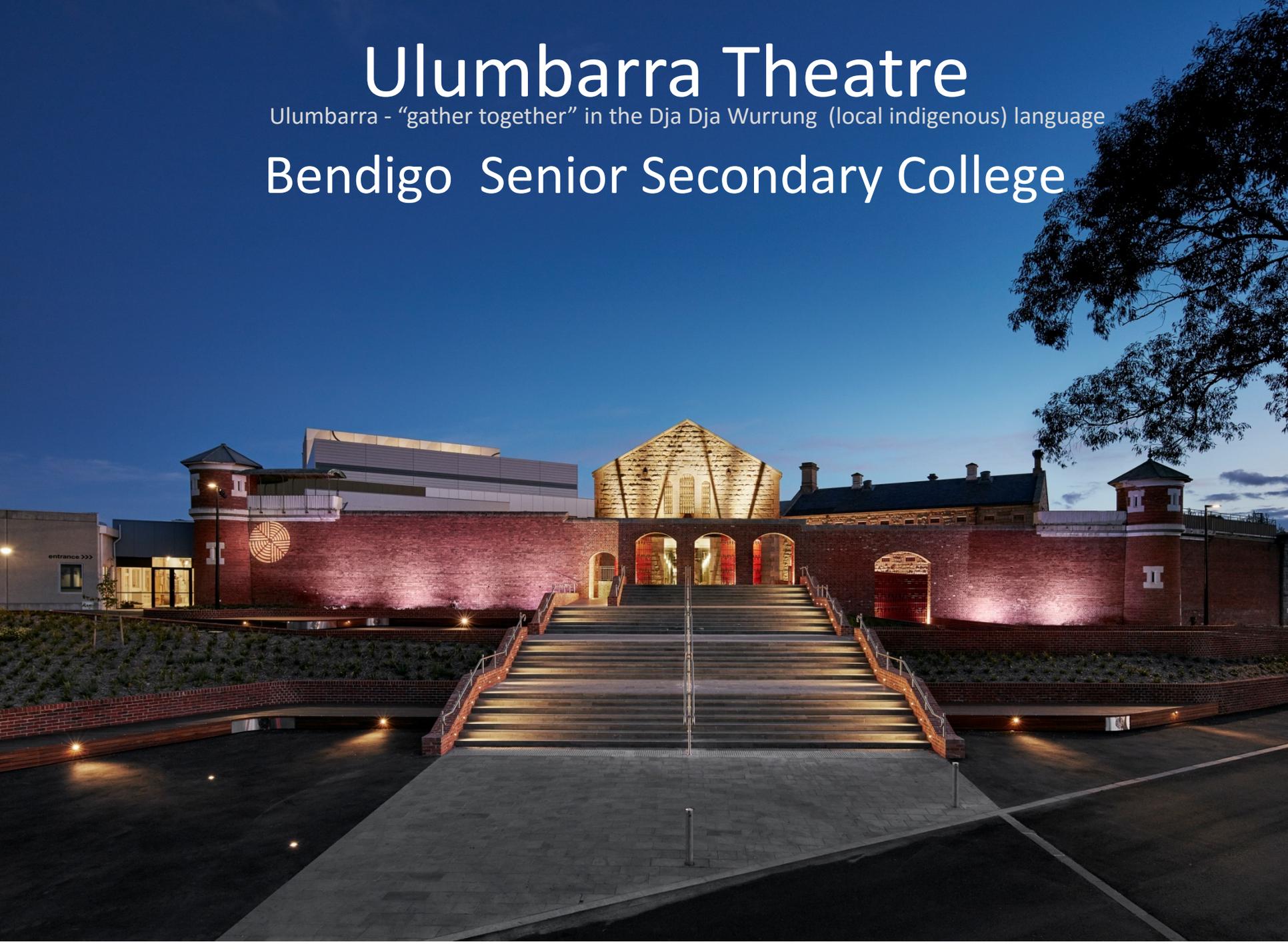
Bendigo, Victoria

Australia

Ulumbarra Theatre

Ulumbarra - "gather together" in the Dja Dja Wurrung (local indigenous) language

Bendigo Senior Secondary College

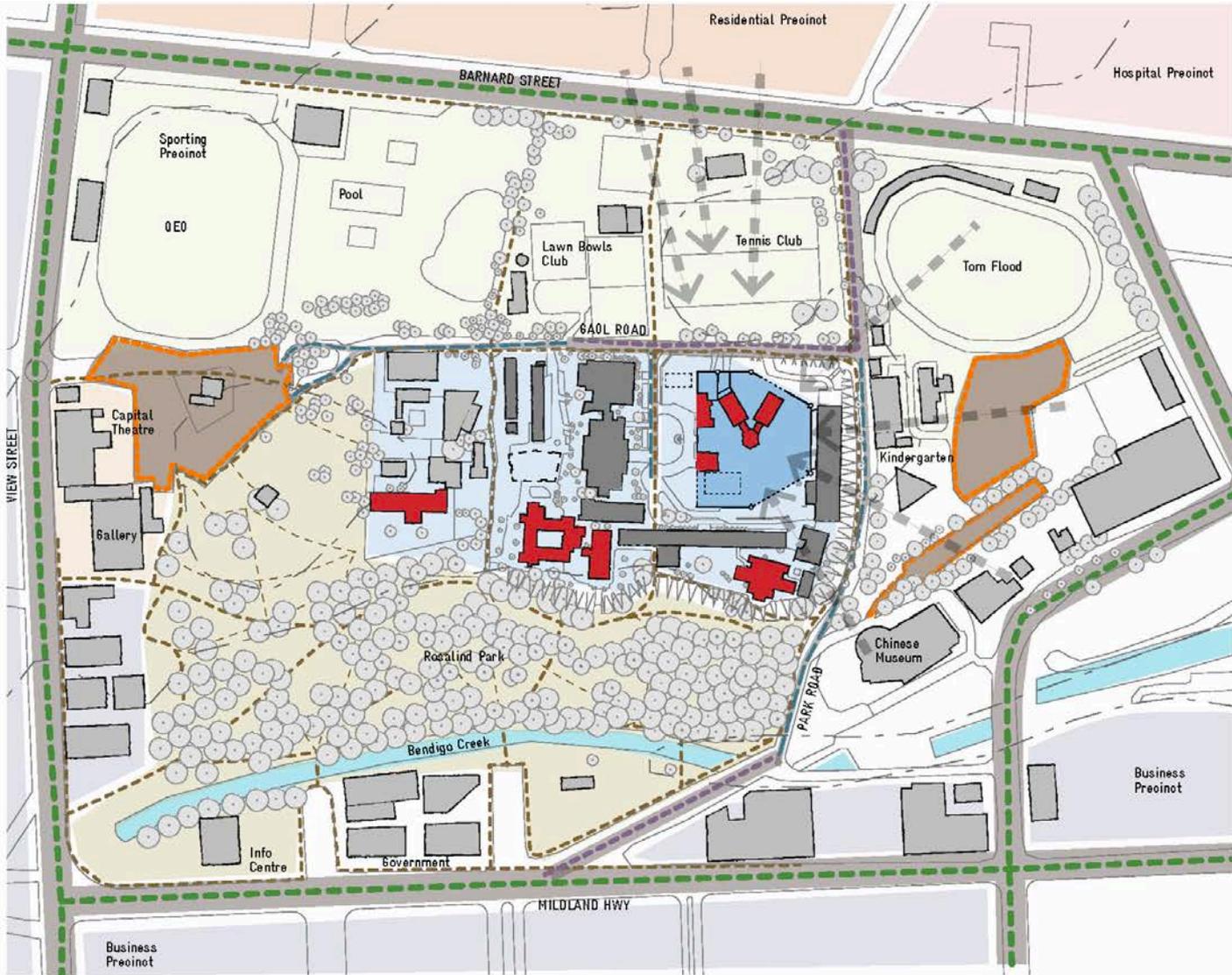


Overview

Built in 1861 the Sandhurst Gaol stands as part of a government precinct overlooking its city. Bendigo Senior Secondary College surrounds the Gaol, hosting around 1800 year 11 and 12 students on a tight campus block. In 2006 the gaol complex was transferred to the college, beginning a period of consultation with the college and community on the adaptation of this heritage listed facility into a high quality civic centre for Performing Arts.



Site Context

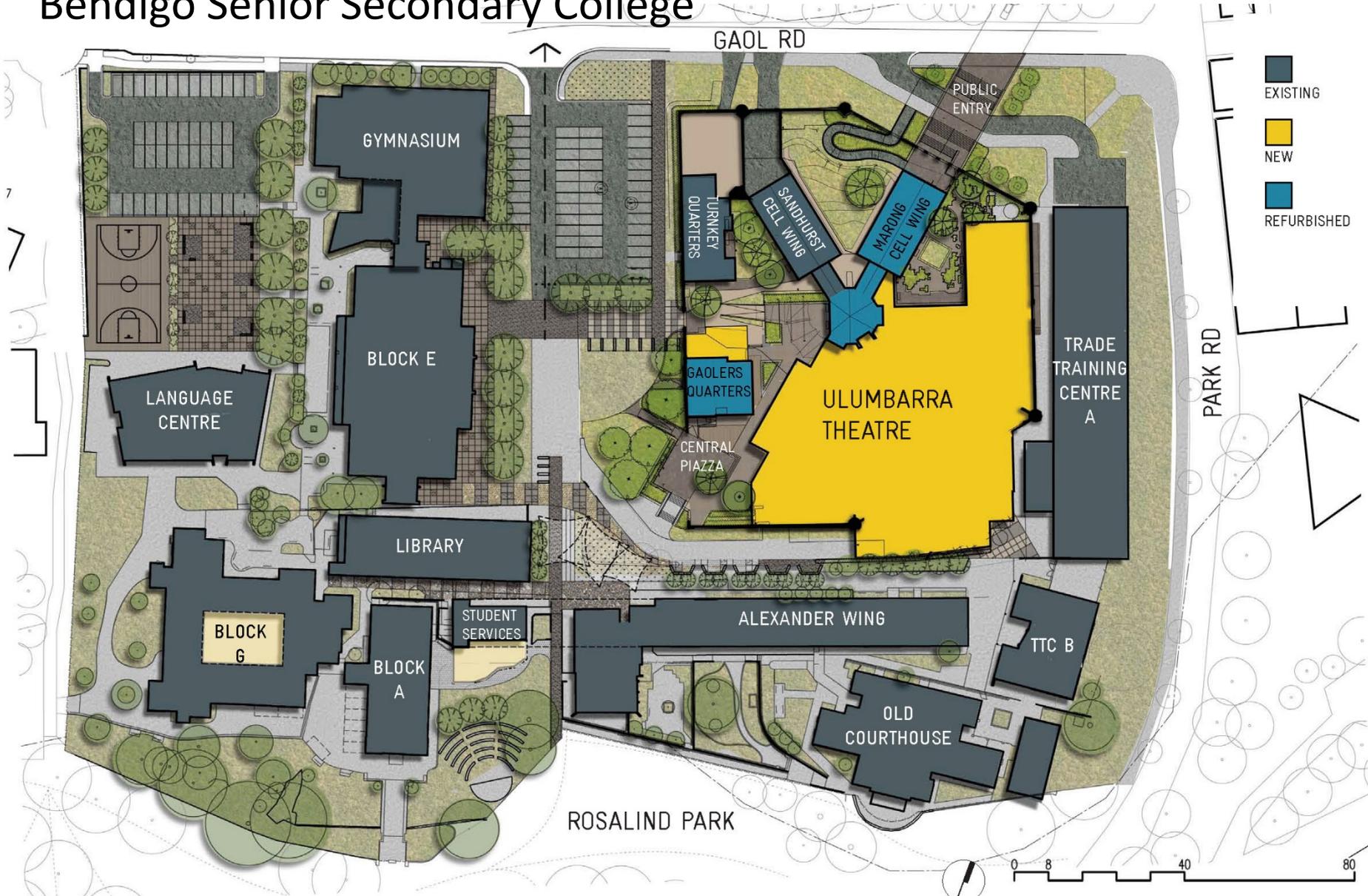


- LEGEND**
- Rosalind Park
 - Sporting Precinct
 - School Precinct
 - Art Precinct
 - Hospital Precinct
 - Business Precinct
 - Residential Precinct
-
- Pedestrian Pathway
 - Single Lane Road or Access Roadway
 - Double Lane Road
 - Major Road
 - Parking
-
- Registered Architecture
 - Views to Site



Ulumbarra Theatre Site plan

Bendigo Senior Secondary College



Community Environment

The college's objective was to use this opportunity to significantly enhance its performing arts program, both through the construction of new student facilities for music, drama, theatre studies and dance as well as access to the 1000-seat Ulumbarra Theatre and the actors, musicians and performers who would utilise it. A new café to service the theatre and school students on a day to day basis was complemented by two new adjoining school kitchens. Again, the intention was to provide our students with access to a commercial kitchen environment and to tap into the opportunities this provided.

*Dale Pearce
Principal, Bendigo Senior Secondary College*



Opening up to the community

Community Environment:

- Ulumbarra Theatre provides a series of teaching spaces across hospitality, music and performing arts all in conjunction with a 4-star rated, 1000 seat community theatre.
 - Facilities are spread across 4 main levels (with additional backstage components) with heritage components threaded throughout.
 - It is designed to create a central heart for the college that connects to both the campus facilities and the surrounding community.
- The complexities of the brief come in with the incorporation of a dual client body and the social history of the site including the constructed memory that often comes with a heritage building.
 - The design Creates new entry points that engage with the surrounding community opening up the insular nature of the gaol and creating a welcoming presence that draws people. Turning a public facility with negative associations into an enriching positive asset for the community.



Community Theatre

Community Environment:

Engagement with the local theatre provider (Capital Theatre) on their needs and requirements for this new facility, as well as strategies for joint operation, ensuring that Ulumbarra Theatre is both successful and complementary to existing facilities



Heritage

Community Environment:

Thorough consultation with Heritage Victoria to ensure that the adaptation of the Gaol into a Performing Arts Precinct maintained connections to its past as well as creating a new community asset.

The bold intervention of the proposed theatre into the gaol complex is designed as 'performative' architecture. In this way space is designed as movement, which strings together series of different types of spaces and creates places for dialogue. The architectural design looks at presence and absence, opportunities to be seen and heard, which are fundamental to changing notions of social justice.

Mandy Jean, Heritage Advisor to City of Greater Bendigo



Learning Environment

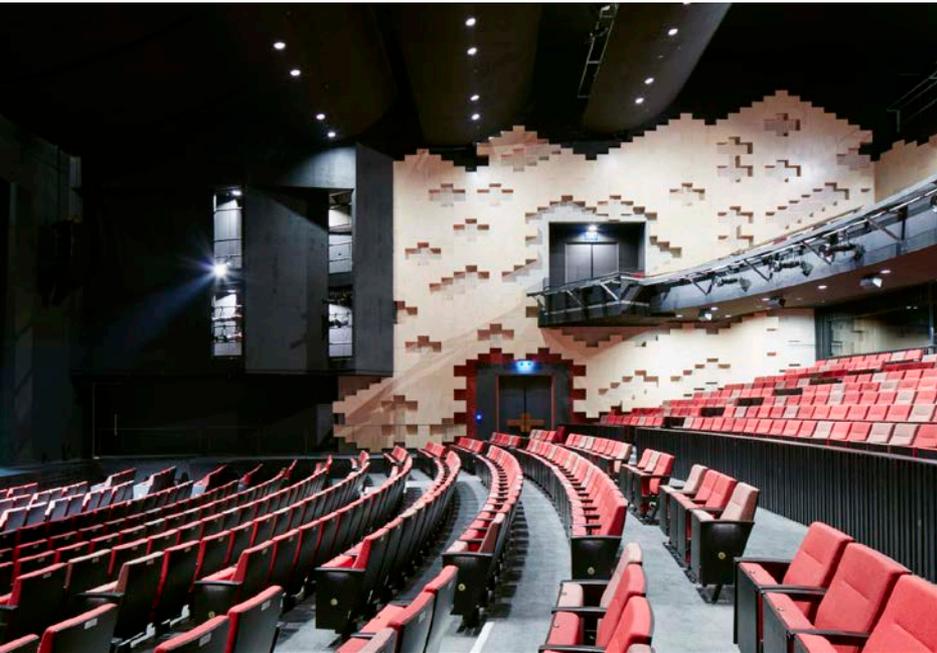


Integrated learning opportunities

Learning Environment:

Broad consultation with the college community on their expectations for Ulumbarra, with its unique position as a community enriching facility. Providing high quality, industry relevant learning environments that allow for performing arts, theatre management, hospitality, building conservation and tourism.

By providing facilities that will be utilised by world class performers and crews, Ulumbarra foster and encourages student interactions with industry leaders nurturing their skills and ambitions (e.g. workshopping with the Sydney Dance Company in August last year).



Principal's Comments:

Learning Environment:

It has provided opportunities for the following:

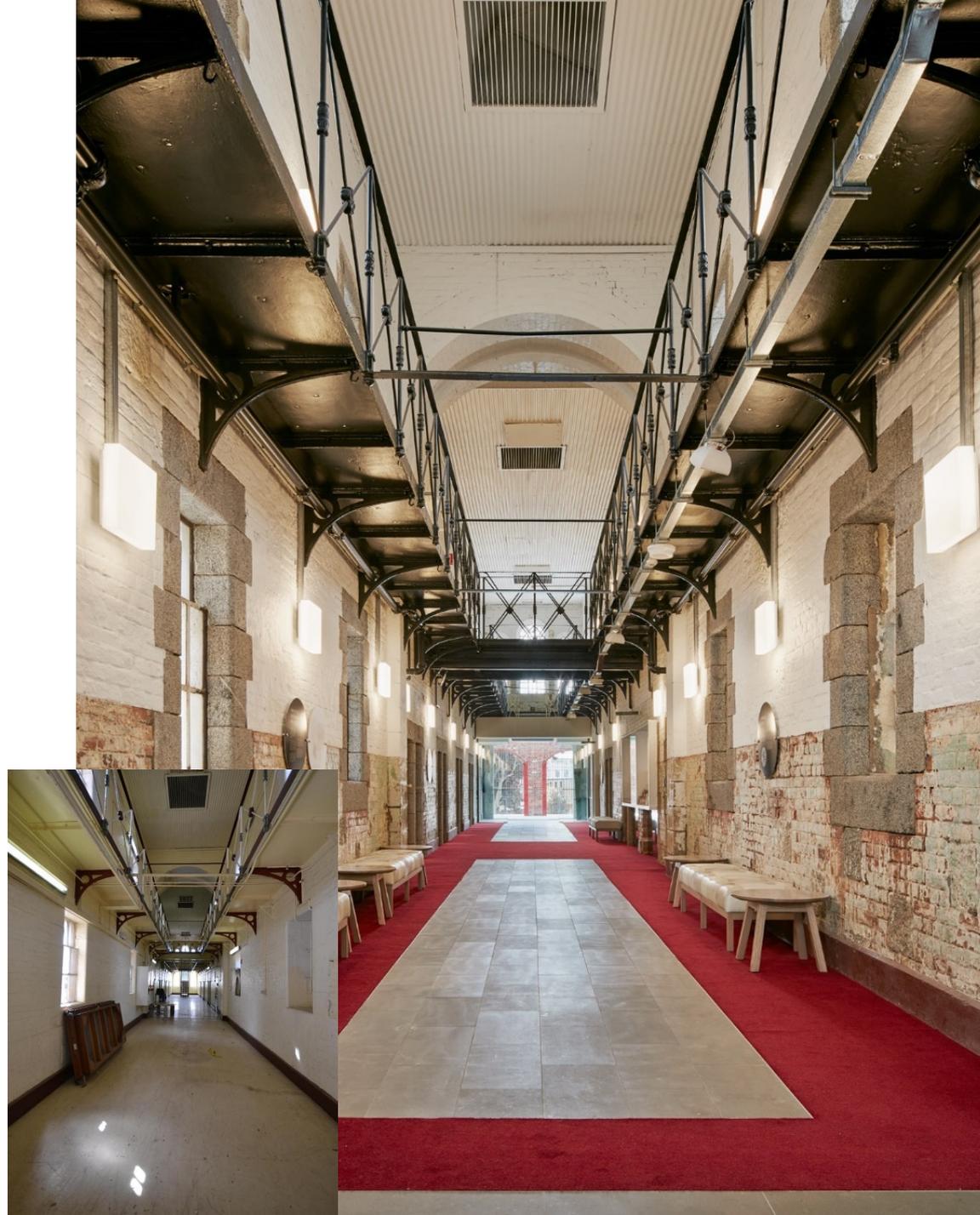
- *Classroom programs in music, drama, theatre studies, dance and hospitality are now taught in high quality facilities. We have seen an increase in the number of students enrolling at the college for this reason.*
 - *We have been able to establish a specialist performing arts program.*
 - *Students have been able to attend master classes and workshops run by theatre performers, gaining unprecedented access to world class instruction relevant to their own studies.*
 - *Several students have undertaken work experience in back of stage in the theatre. Others have acted as volunteers.*
- *Students have been able to gain experience catering for large theatre events, assisting back of house and providing waiting service.*
 - *We are developing plans with the commercial operators of the café for students to undertake structured work placement to support their Vocational Education studies.*
 - *All our significant college events are now held in the theatre and our students have many opportunities to perform in that setting.*
 - *Students gather at the café and in the surrounding courtyards throughout the day, drawing our student population up out of the nearby Rosalind Park. A recent attraction has been the introduction of lunchtime music performances into the main courtyard.*



The world is my stage

Learning Environment:

- Utilising the gaol as a performance piece in and of itself, creating atmosphere as occupants enter through the old cell wing and under the gallows with stone tiles echoing their footsteps to create an experiential environment.
- Creating a sense of play and performance throughout – e.g. the black box theatre is housed in a white box, elsewhere a black box creates a cafeteria and learning spaces and reflects the original gaol design in its form.
- Ulumbarra encourages exploration of the site's heritage with elements of the new lightly touching the old. Frequently occupants are given new incites; from windows that frame old guard towers to reflections of the gaol viewed in the glazing of courtyards.



Physical Environment



Historical Threads and New Opportunities

Physical Environment:

- A historicist thread is woven through the fabric, creating new views and vistas towards previously hidden elements of the gaol, so that you experience its presence wherever you are in the facility.
- The project creates openings to new and found courtyard spaces creating opportunities for outdoor recreation, performance and learning for students and the community on the school's constrained site.
- Importantly the project included removing some of the southern gaol wall, connecting Ulumbarra with the school grounds. This has created a piazza focused on performance and alfresco dining at the heart of the college.

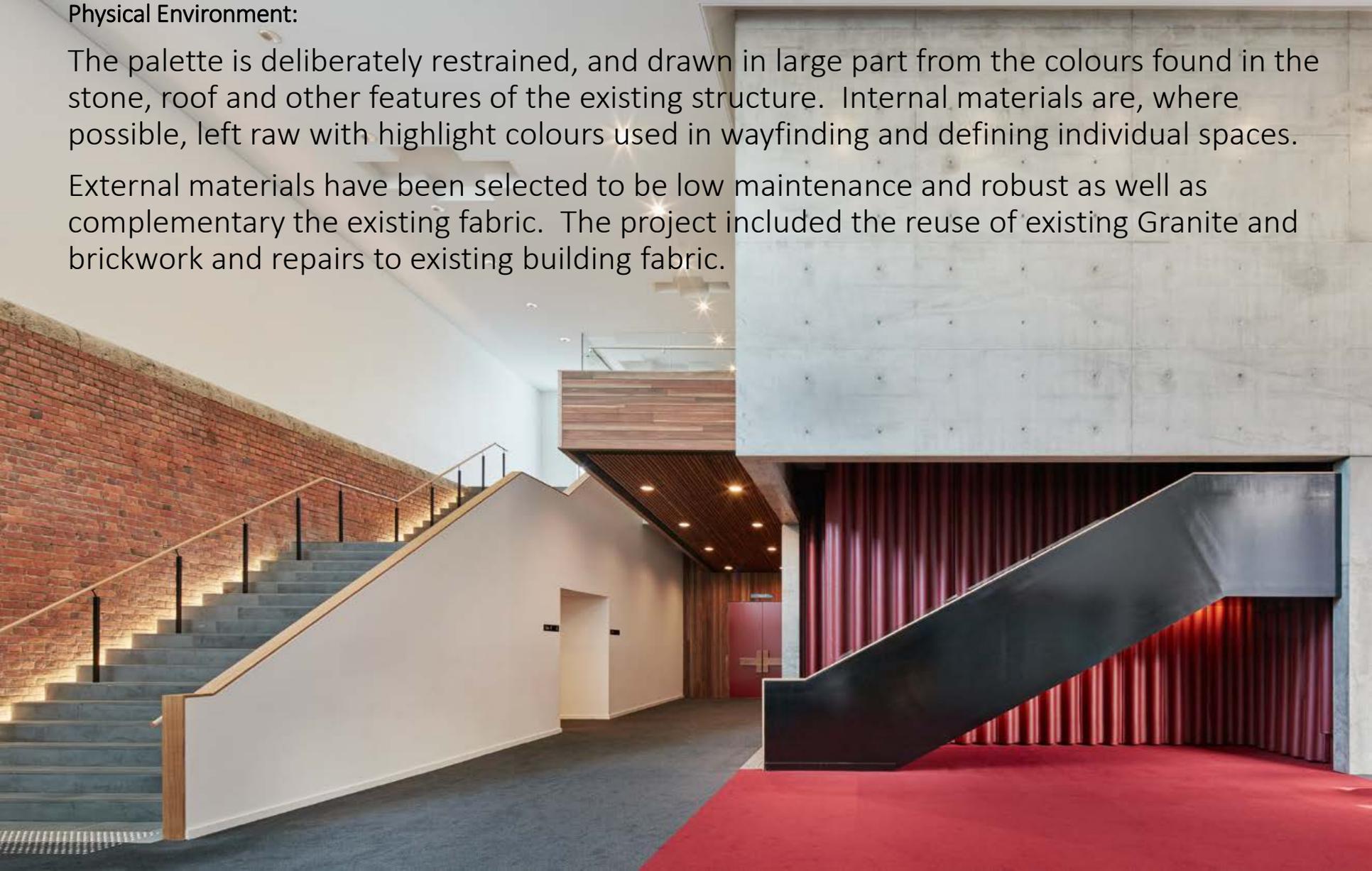


Materials Palette

Physical Environment:

The palette is deliberately restrained, and drawn in large part from the colours found in the stone, roof and other features of the existing structure. Internal materials are, where possible, left raw with highlight colours used in wayfinding and defining individual spaces.

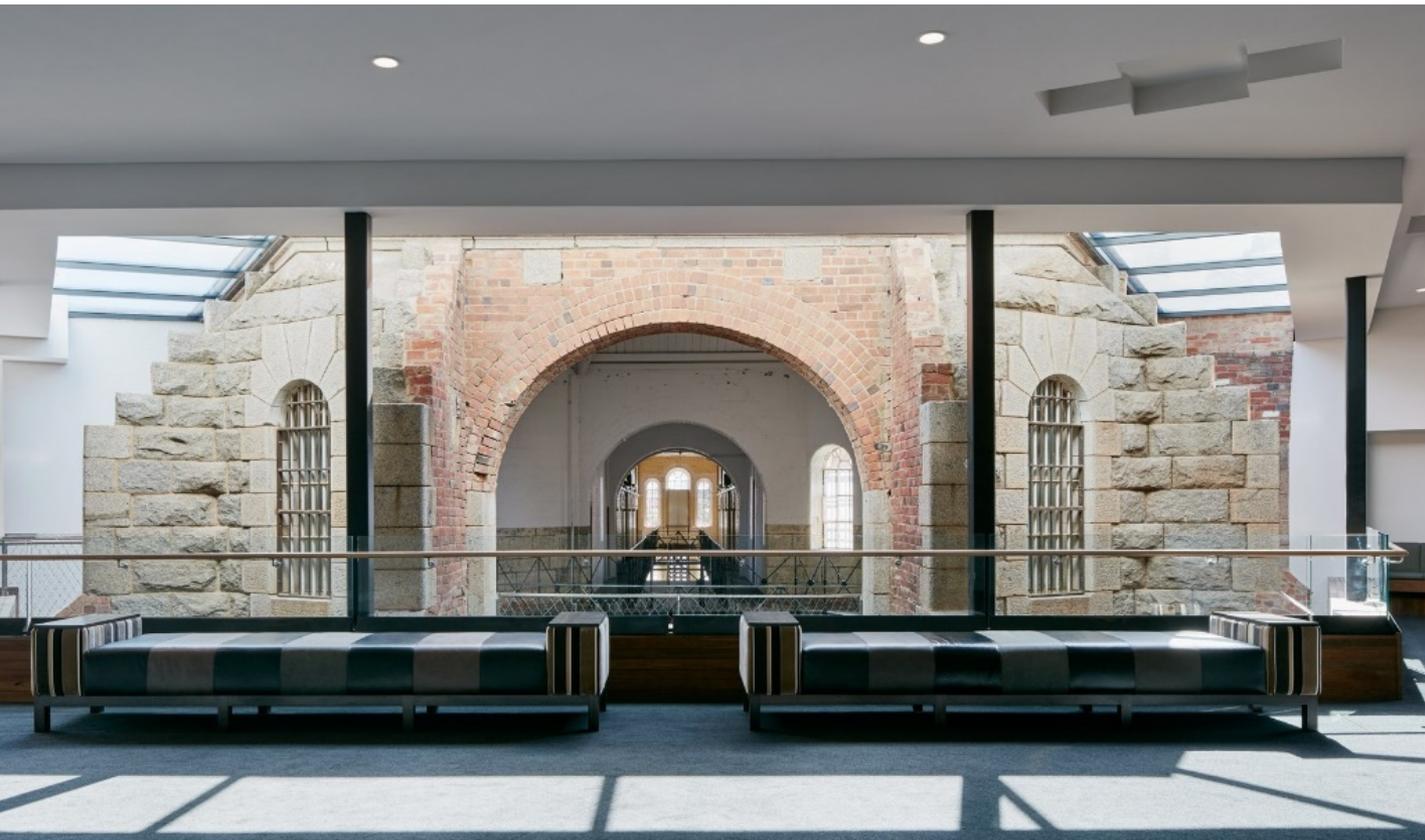
External materials have been selected to be low maintenance and robust as well as complementary the existing fabric. The project included the reuse of existing Granite and brickwork and repairs to existing building fabric.



Adaptation

Physical Environment:

By adapting the redundant gaol buildings, they have been given new purpose, extending their lifespans and inverting them into integral community spaces for future generations to experience and enjoy.



Planning Process



The collaboration between the college, the local council and our Architect has been outstanding and has resulted in a set of new facilities that respond magnificently to the strategic and pedagogical needs of our college.

Dale Pearce
Principal, Bendigo Senior Secondary College

Planning Process Timeline*



*Please refer to attached word document for full timeline of meetings during the planning process

Enhancing opportunities

Planning Process:

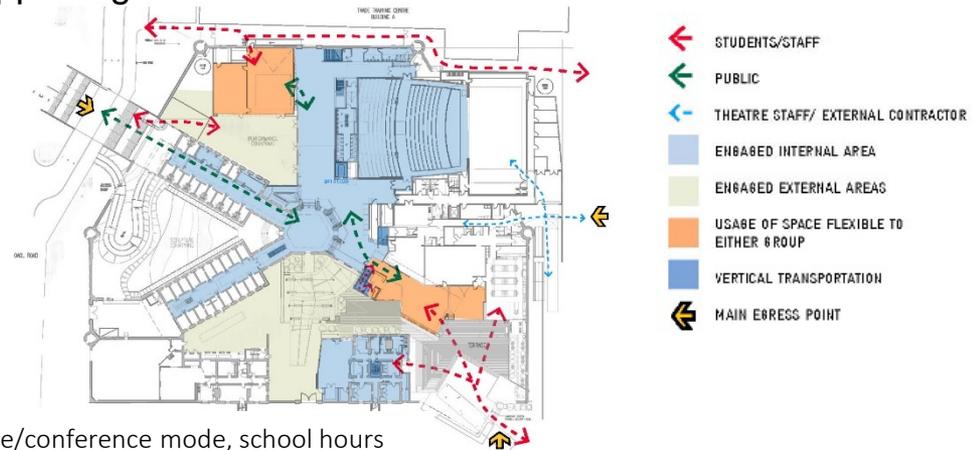
By working extensively with all stakeholders, the facility has been designed to turn its inherent complexities into opportunities.

The planning allows for various occupants to work simultaneously either as independent users or in collaboration and the integration of the college's Hospitality and Arts programs is crucial to the success of project.

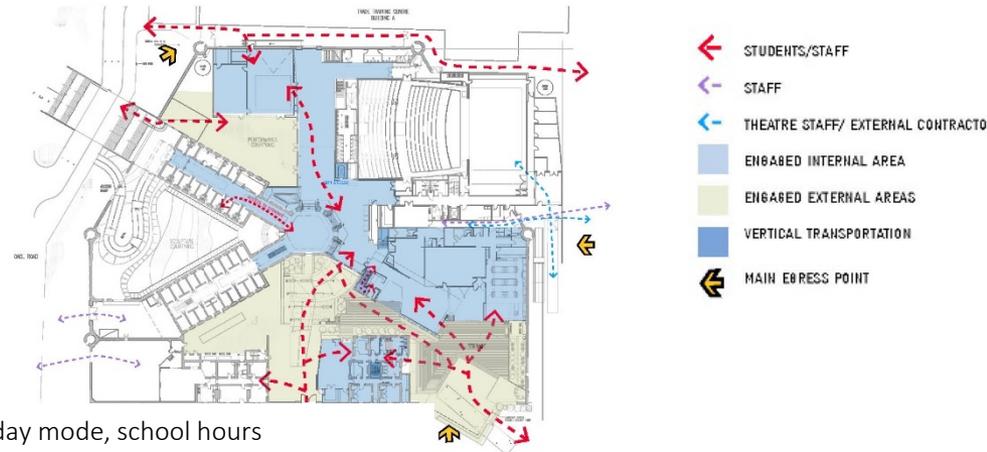
Ulumbarra provides unique opportunities for its students to work both in industry relevant environments and with world class professionals, attracted to this regional centre due to the facilities available at Ulumbarra.

The community further benefits from access to a range of facilities including a drama room that doubles as a theatre, a dance studio and the commercial kitchens.

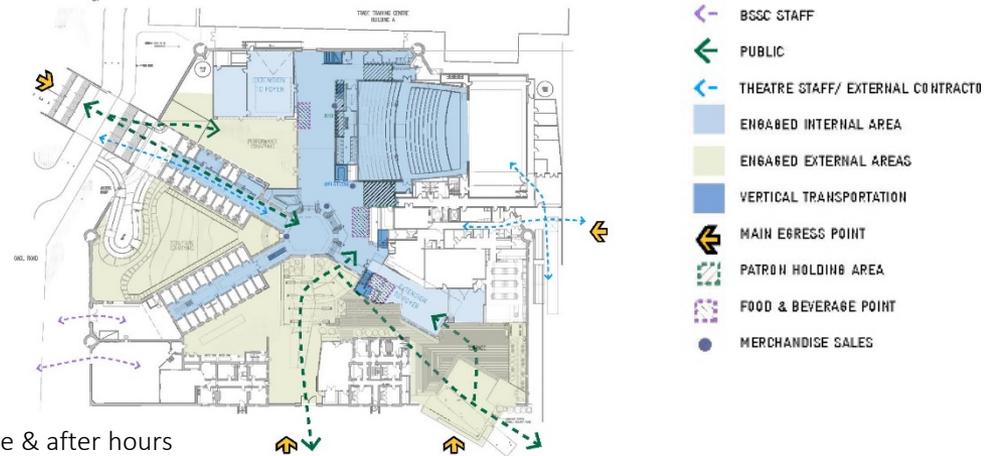
Supporting Multi-user Modes



Theatre/conference mode, school hours

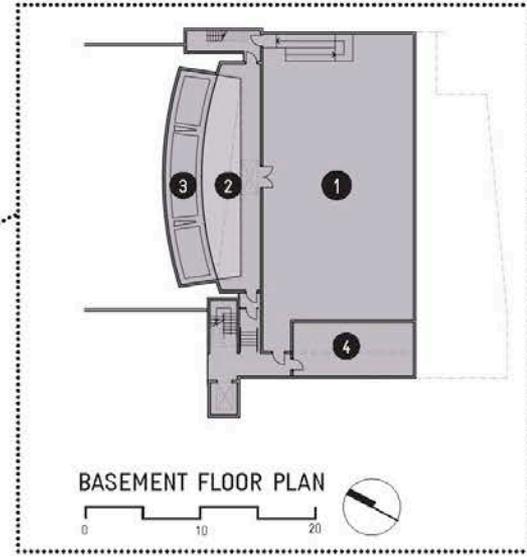
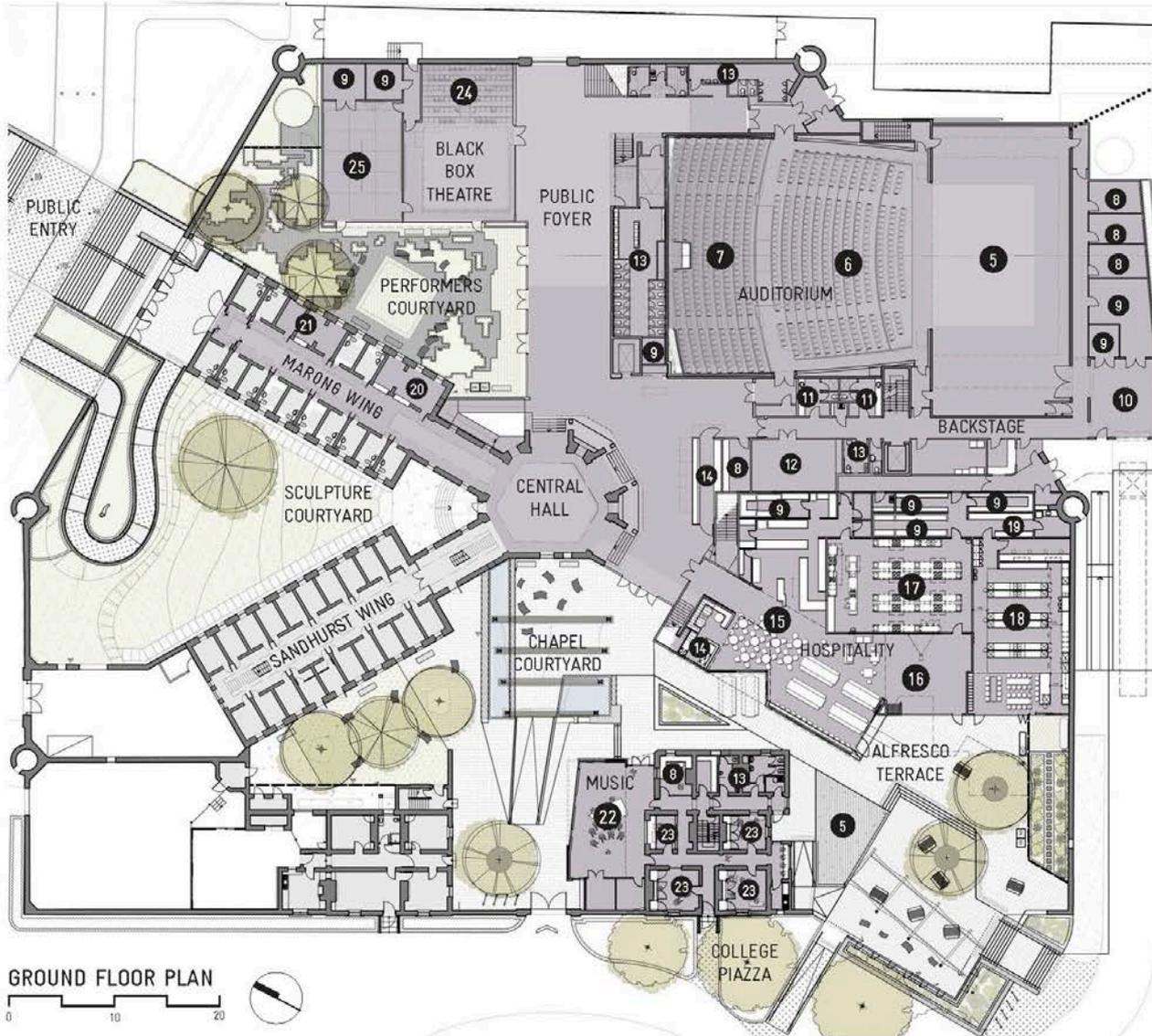


Weekday mode, school hours



Theatre & after hours

ULUMBARRA THEATRE, BENDIGO FLOOR PLANS



LEGEND

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. UNDERSTAGE STORAGE | 14. BAR/CAFE |
| 2. ORCHESTRA PIT | 15. CAFETERIA |
| 3. SEATING WAGONS | 16. THEORY |
| 4. MUSICIANS ROOMS | 17. COMMERCIAL KITCHEN |
| 5. STAGE | 18. HYBRID KITCHEN |
| 6. LOWER STALLS | 19. PREP |
| 7. UPPER STALLS | 20. BOX OFFICE |
| 8. OFFICES | 21. CLOAKROOM |
| 9. STORAGE | 22. REHEARSAL ROOM |
| 10. LOADING BAY | 23. PRACTICE ROOM |
| 11. DRESSING ROOMS | 24. DRAMA STUDIO |
| 12. GREEN ROOM | 25. DANCE STUDIO |
| 13. TOILETS | |



Jury Citation
2016 Educational Facilities Awards
A4LE Australasian Region

This project provides the broader architectural and educational design communities with a courageous and visionary example of collaboration between the College, Capitol Theatre, and government. This outstanding facility offers the students of Bendigo Senior Secondary an awe inspiring space in which to learn to become successful members of an established performing arts community.

In re-imagining a nineteenth century gaol, designed to isolate, as a place of growth and joyful connection the project team has demonstrated coherence of vision on a grand scale. This architectural solution thoughtfully responds to many competing and complex constraints, including the functional requirements of the new theatre and the multi-modal operation of the facility that integrates it into the community. All of this is elegantly achieved whilst dramatically re-purposing and celebrating the extant heritage fabric.

The clarity and legibility of the demarcation between heritage and new-build adheres to best practice and engages the building in the education potential of the site. The expression and resolution of functional areas, materials and building elements is at once elegant and instructive.

As such, we would like to add our voices to those who resoundingly affirm the success of this project, noting its contribution to the lives of those who learn within its walls and to those who look on with interest.

Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture Project Data

Submitting Firm :	Y2 Architecture
Project Role	Lead Architect
Project Contact	Matthew Dwyer
Title	Director
Address	466 Malvern Rd
City, State or Province, Country	Prahran, Victoria, AUSTRALIA
Phone	03 9510 7860

Joint Partner Firm:	N/A
Project Role	
Project Contact	
Title	
Address	
City, State or Province, Country	
Phone	

Other Firm:	N/A
Project Role	
Project Contact	
Title	
Address	
City, State or Province, Country	
Phone	

Construction Firm:	Contact Control Services
Project Role	Builders
Project Contact	
Title	
Address	71-89 Hobsons Rd,
City, State or Province, Country	Kensington, Victoria, AUSTRALIA, 3031
Phone	03 9372 2166

Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture Project Details

Project Name	Ulumbarra Theatre, Bendigo Senior Secondary College
City	Bendigo
State	Victoria, Australia
District Name	NA
Supt/President	NA
Occupancy Date	Partial: April 2015 Full: December 2015
Grades Housed	Years 11-12 (with Joint Community Use)
Capacity(Students)	1800 Students (whole College), 1000 seat auditorium
Site Size (acres)	Whole college 3.75 ha (9.27 acres) Area contained within Old Gaol Perimeter: 0.7ha (1.73acres)
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	6,505 sq.m (70,019 sq.ft)
Per Occupant(pupil)	NA
gross/net please indicate	
Design and Build?	no
If yes, Total Cost:	
Includes:	
If no,	
Site Development:	\$1.43M (AUD)
Building Construction:	\$18.8M (AUD)
Fixed Equipment:	\$1.37M (AUD)
Other:	
Total:	\$25.8M (AUD)