2012 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

QUT Kelvin Grove Library Upgrade

R Block, Kelvin Gove Campus, Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Brisbane, Australia
Lee J Brockway Award - Renovation
Institution of Higher Education
Peddle Thorp & James Cubitt Architects

Queensland University of Technology Kelvin Grove Library Upgrade



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Embedded within the academic precinct of the Kelvin Grove campus of the Queensland University of Technology, the redeveloped Branch Library locates both the physical and conceptual heart of the campus. Housed within the original library building, a substantial and celebrated 1970's exposed concrete structure by John Simpson and John Andrew, the project comprised the extensive refurbishment of four of the six floors underscored by the simple philosophy of stripping back the layers from the last 30 years to reveal the base building whilst allowing an integration of new technologies demanded by a modern tertiary library.

Confident in its non-archival status, the library's brief prioritised user amenity over additional collection storage areas. The outcome delivers an increased capacity of over 200 seats, ranging from group focused training rooms to personal retreat spaces on the quieter upper floors, a roof top terrace, media rooms and a computer gaming lab where developmental and 'retro' games can be accessed for both research and pleasure. The library's role as a venue for both self-directed and curriculum based learning and as point of connection for the wider Brisbane community has shaped the spaces now found within. The Library's relocated entry is now outward focused and addressing the campus' main pedestrian spine and café. The creation of a new north facing double height entry and the opportunistic formation of a plaza furnished with a generous raised lawn and activated edge extends the library out into the Wi-Fi and coffee enabled landscape.

A pivotal component in the replanning of the entry floor and the journey to the levels above has been the new stair and central void. Pulling arriving visitors into and upwards towards the collection, the stair is unexpectedly roofed with a canopy of upturned books set within a mirrored frame. The infinite canopy of multi-coloured fabric covered books drawn from the predominantly humanities focused collection serves as a reminder of the collection above.

The creation of voyeuristic opportunities is a recurring theme. The layering of staff and public functions on the entry level and the views within the collection and work areas on the upper floors all add layers to the experience within. The placement of the returns processing adjacent the main entry. While being pragmatic, this planning diagram also delivers an unexpected moment for passers-by, exposing a normally back of house function. The opening to view of the seasonal ebb and flow of trolleys and books serves to both identify the library to the pedestrian but also remind them of the activities and core craft of the Library within.

The prudent yet comprehensive services and facade upgrade projected energy savings in excess of 30% whilst maximising existing building fabric. The co-locating on each floor of new amenities and drinking fountains delivers improved amenity and legibility to building users. The project was delivered by a staged works program over 12 months allowing a continued part operation of library services with only minimal building closures outside of the University semester.

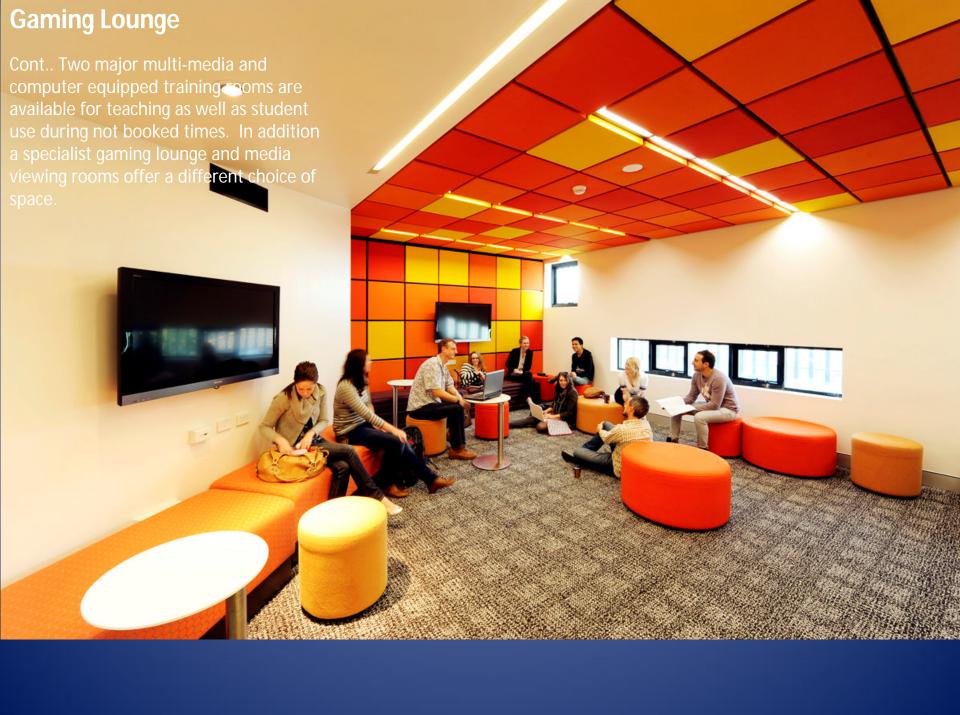
Main Stair and Book Art

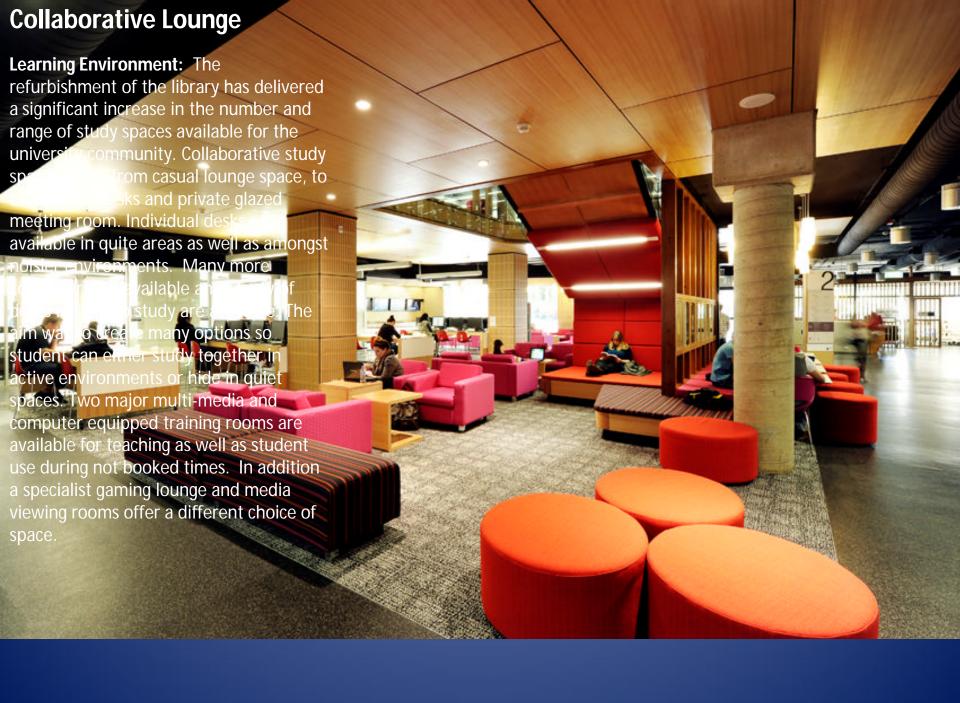
Community Environment:

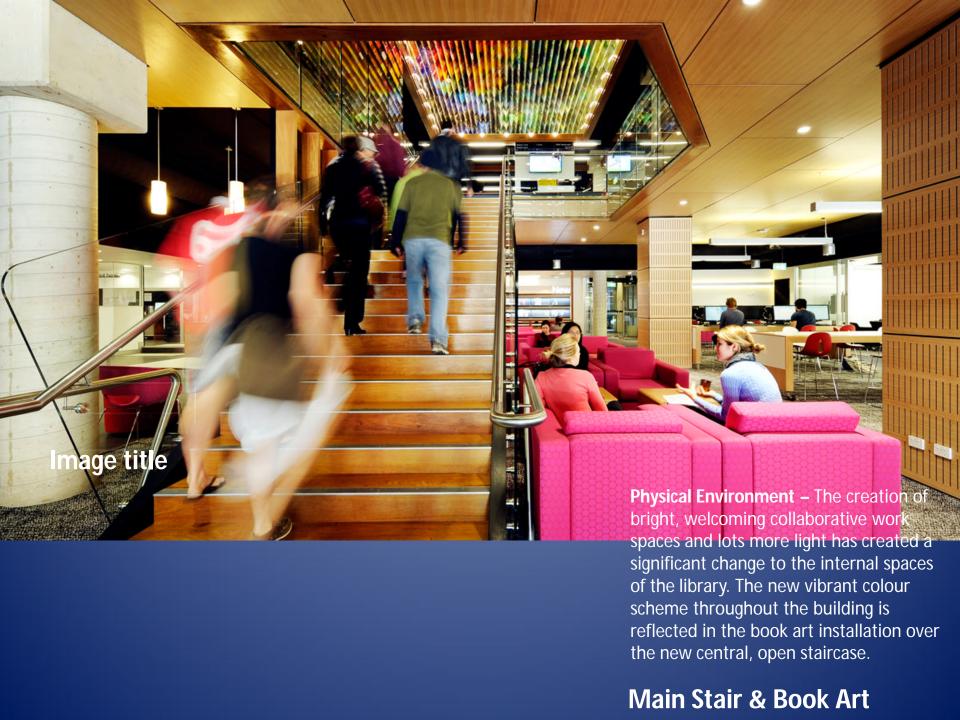
The library's role as a venue for both self-directed and curriculum based learning and as point of connection for the wider Brisbane community has shaped the spaces within the building. The Library's relocated entry is now outward focused and addressing the campus' main pedestrian spine and café. The creation of a new north facing double height entry and the opportunistic formation of a plaza furnished with a generous raised lawn and activated edge extends the library out into the Wi-Fi and coffee enabled landscape.













The Terrace

Planning Process:

The pre-existing master plan was challenged with new opportunities identified to refocus the library on to what has evolved into major pedestrian spine in the campus. The design team prepared various precinct planning options for debate whilst planning the building interior spaces and the allocation of the collection areas and study spaces. The process was highly collaborative with the university stakeholder team as well as design team members such as cost planners who provided regular guidance to assure cost compliance.



External Courtyards bring the library into the campus

Cont... The pre-existing master plan was challenged with new opportunities identified to refocus the library on to what has evolved into major pedestrian spine in the campus. The design team prepared various precinct planning options for debate whilst planning the building interior spaces and the allocation of the collection areas and study spaces. The process was highly collaborative with the university stakeholder team as well as design team members such as cost planners who provided regular guidance to assure cost compliance.



External spaces focus to a new library entry



Library Service Precinct barrier free

Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture Project Data

Submitting Firm :	Peddle Thorp Architects
Project Role	Architecture
Project Contact	Brett Hudson (Peddle Thorp)
Title	Associate Director
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City, State or Province, Country	Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
Phone	+61 7 3811 9500

Joint Partner Firm:	James Cubitt Architects
Project Role	Architecture
Project Contact	Paul Chrismas
Title	Director
Address	36 St. Pauls Terrace, Spring Hill
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Phone	+61 7 3831 7777

Construction Firm:	Kane Constructions (QLD) Pty Ltd
Project Role	Builder
Project Contact	Jacinta McKeon
Title	Project Manager
Address	2/321 Kelvin Grove Road KELVIN GROVE
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Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture Project Details

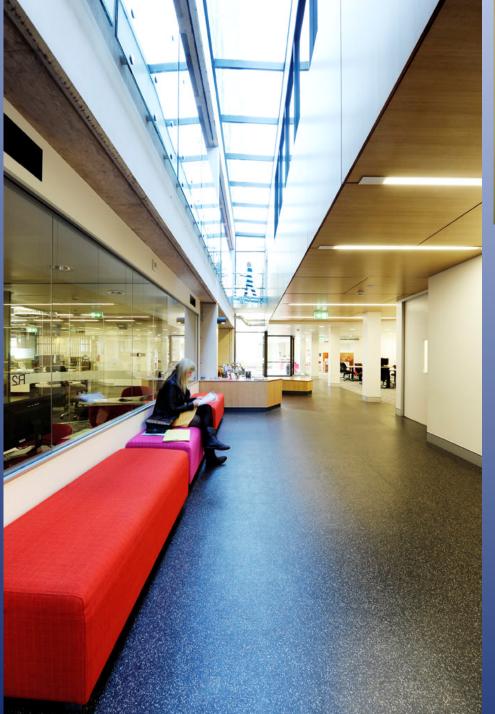
Project Name	QUT Kelvin Grove Campus Library Upgrade
City	Brisbane
State	Queensland
District Name	
Supt/President	Judy Stokker (Director of Libraries - QUT)
Occupancy Date	Staged completion – final stage February 2011
Grades Housed	University
Capacity(Students)	200+ students
Site Size (acres)	
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	81,480 sq.ft. (7570sq.m)
Per Occupant(pupil)	407sq.ft / seat
gross/net please indicate	
Design and Build?	
If yes, Total Cost:	
Includes:	
lf no,	
Site Development:	Aus \$290,000 site works + \$177,000 landscape
Building Construction:	Aus \$11,770,000
Fixed Equipment:	Aus \$50,000
Other:	Aus \$1,240,000 furniture, \$413,000 computers
Total:	Aus \$13,940,000
Total.	7 Nao 4 10,0 10,000



Before Renovation

These images illustrate the library spaces before the renovation. The bright tubular lights overwhelmed a persons vision. Shelving dominates and inhibits views across the floor. The staff service precinct is barrier like. The entry to the building is hidden, undefined and unwelcoming.







Places to relax

The opportunities to study are varied. The lower levels are more intense with collaborative study areas whilst upper levels are quieter. The connecting space between two buildings allows light to filter deep into the ground floor and provides a hidden spot to read.





Quiet Spaces

The range of study spaces includes hidden areas that students can lose themselves either within the collection or at window seats to feel the warmth and light from outside.

