

# 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



# Queensland University of Technology

## Kelvin Grove Library Upgrade

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.





# Collaboration zone

**Learning Environment:** The refurbishment of the library has delivered a significant increase in the number and range of study spaces available for the university community. Collaborative study spaces range from casual lounge space, to team study desks and private quiet meeting room. Individual desks are available in quite areas as well as amongst noisier environments. Many more computers are available and plenty of desks for laptop study are available. The aim was to create many options so student can either study together in active environments or hide in quiet spaces.





# Gaming Lounge

Cont.. Two major multi-media and computer equipped training rooms are available for teaching as well as student use during not booked times. In addition a specialist gaming lounge and media viewing rooms offer a different choice of space.





# Collaborative Lounge

**Learning Environment:** The refurbishment of the library has delivered a significant increase in the number and range of study spaces available for the university community. Collaborative study spaces range from casual lounge space, to individual desks and private glazed meeting room. Individual desks are available in quite areas as well as amongst noisier environments. Many more computer workstations are available and a variety of desks for group study are available. The aim was to create many options so student can either study together in active environments or hide in quiet spaces. Two major multi-media and computer equipped training rooms are available for teaching as well as student use during not booked times. In addition a specialist gaming lounge and media viewing rooms offer a different choice of space.







Image title

**Physical Environment** – The creation of bright, welcoming collaborative work spaces and lots more light has created a significant change to the internal spaces of the library. The new vibrant colour scheme throughout the building is reflected in the book art installation over the new central, open staircase.

**Main Stair & Book Art**





Physical Environment - Continued

**Cont..** On levels 2 and 3, which are now connected by the new staircase, the dominant colour is fuchsia pink, upstairs on level 4 it is orange and on level 5 is green. The changing colour palette signals changing qualities in the nature and temperament of each floor. The refurbishment has maintained much of the essential qualities of the building and given it a new respect, but reinterpreted the interior spaces into an environment responsive to the needs of the university population.

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
Address	Level 3, Oxley House, 25 Donkin Street, West End
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 Christmas
Title	Director
Address	36 St. Pauls Terrace, Spring Hill
City, State or Province, Country	Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
Phone	+61 7 3831 7777

Construction Firm:	Kane Constructions (QLD) Pty Ltd
Project Role	Builder
Project Contact	<b>Jacinta McKeon</b>
Title	Project Manager
Address	2/321 Kelvin Grove Road KELVIN GROVE
City, State or Province, Country	Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
Phone	+61 7 3356 9944

# Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

## Project Details

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



# 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.



