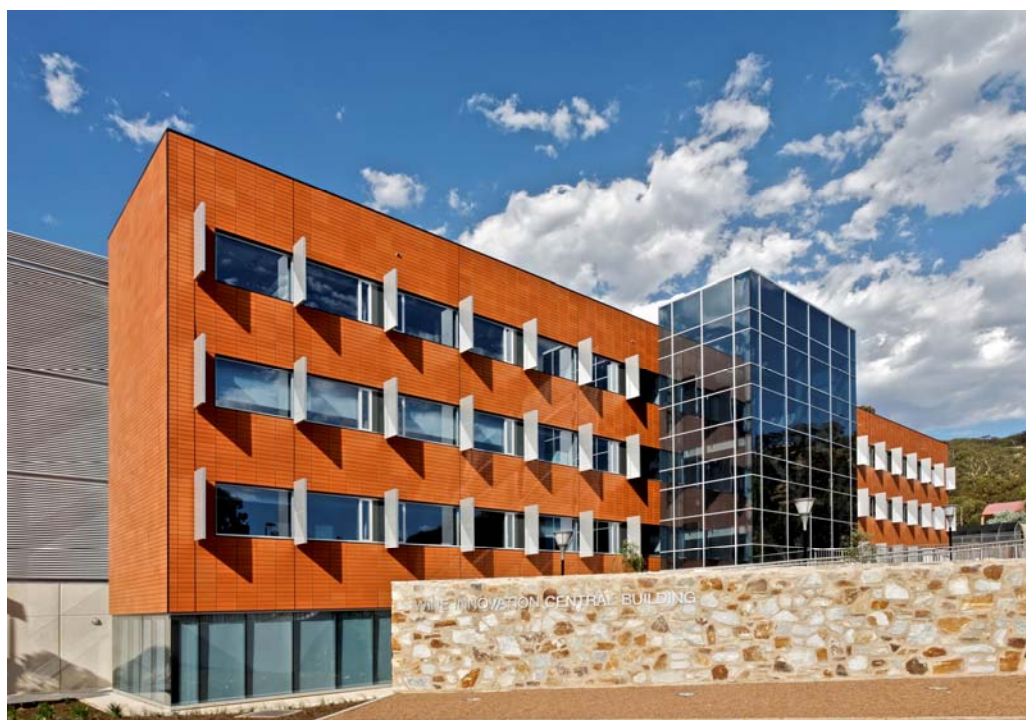


Press Briefing

February 2009

HASSELL Design New Research Facility for Vine to Wine



HASSELL was appointed by The University of Adelaide in September 2006 to design a new facility that would primarily replace the existing and aging facilities of the Australian Wine Research Institute, to be known as **Wine Innovation Central (WIC)** building.

The \$28m project – jointly funded by The University of Adelaide, the Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI), the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) and the Department of Primary Industries and Resources of South Australia – brings together Australia's leading wine research, viticulture and development groups into a single purpose built state-of-the-art research facility located at Urrbrae, in the foothills of Adelaide, south east of the city.

The new 7,280sqm facility has been designed to reflect the Wine Innovation Cluster's position as the most dynamic mix of grape and wine researchers assembled in one precinct anywhere in the world and consolidates the activities of the five leading research agencies within a new landmark building to address the needs of the grape and wine sector.

The building concept is fundamentally derived from the philosophies of world's best practice in laboratory design, a need for interaction and collaboration between agencies, an integrated environmental policy and use of functionally efficient new technology, whereby the building has been designed from the inside out and is an expression of the quality of space within.

The structure, plan, organisation and form all come together to create a building bold in conception, rich in detail, elegant in form. Set within the existing cluster of buildings on a prominent hillside site at the junction of Hartley Grove and Paratoo Road, the building provides the highly flexible workspace that is demanded by the latest generation of post graduate student and academic occupiers, whilst reflecting the changing nature and need for academia and private enterprise to provide research and analysis in the global grape and wine sector.

The project has endeavoured to depart from stereotypical laboratory buildings, and explores an innovative and creative means for an environmentally sustainable response. The blending of laboratory suites, support areas and office accommodation occurs in an open and transparent manner.

The client brief demanded a highly efficient and flexible building, taking maximum advantage of the large site area. A variety of accommodation was stipulated, calling for areas suitable for laboratory space as well as open plan and conventional office space.

The building is comprised of four levels of premium laboratory space and office tenancy and storage. The layout and configuration of the building is strongly influenced by the plan, a cruciform of two corridors. These project, east – west and are linked by a central north – south circulation space, these corridors inform the location of offices and laboratory spaces.

It is a particularly intuitive building and one that has been designed to actively encourage inter tenant activity, fostering dialogue and debate, the sharing of equipment, ideas, innovation, collaboration and the development of enriched outcomes.

The University of Adelaide, the AWRI (Australian Wine Research Institute) and SARDI occupy the building with shared and common facilities located at each floor tenancy. The facility also includes laboratories and individual testing stations for teaching and research. In this state-of-the-art facility, the University of Adelaide wine and food faculty will offer students a wider education and more courses in wine science than any other university in the world.

The category A office accommodation is composed of a variety of open plan and perimeter based cellular offices, offering unimpeded views over the outlying CBD, coast and foothills.

The building has a good aspect, nestled into the hillside of the site and is blessed with abundant natural daylight, further enhancing occupant well-being and features a high level of comfort for the building user.

It is easily adaptable, creating a highly flexible work environment. The typical office and laboratory floor-to-floor heights are 4.2m with an overall gross area of 7,280sqm.

The overall floor plate is approximately 66 meters by 28 meters wide with the long axis orientated east-west to take advantage of the northern aspect, daylight and climate control. The full height glazed windows at the end of the east west corridors bring light deep into the building, which coupled with views; daylight, space, and greenery all foster a sense of well-being.

HASSELL was aware of the technical importance of the Central building to the Australian grape and wine sector as a whole and was determined to celebrate the internal activities of the building with a bespoke series of supergraphics. The graphic design team took their cue from the title of the building.

The name 'Wine Innovation' was important to highlight, as it explains that the people using this building are not only focused on the process of grape and wine production, but the science and research behind this process.

HASSELL believed it was important to express the concept of science and research and how it related to the functionality of the spaces within the building, this has been done through the use of graphics and signage, successfully creating a unique sense of place and identity.

The designers were very keen to move away from the usual imagery of bunches of grapes, wine bottles and clichéd bacchanalian revelry to identify more with the scientific and analytical aspects of the research facility.

The resulting ceiling to floor supergraphics depict the yeast cell fermentation process as viewed through a microscope, the honeycomb-like tannin chemical structure marked out across an office wall, as well as vinyl beaker measurement graphics placed on doors and glazed partitions throughout the building.

Rooms designed specifically for wine tasting inspire quirky tasting notes which are dotted throughout the graphics, provided by the wine tasters themselves, noting interesting wine flavours such as "mint, capsicum and blackcurrant, with hints of dark chocolate".

All the graphic content has been integrated with the interior fitout, promoting a level of transparency while providing an element of privacy to meeting rooms and offices, whilst a discrete and consistent system was developed, featuring laser etched icon signage to identify specific localised and common services.

Inspired by the surrounding foothills and abundant native flora and fauna at the Waite Campus, the interior's palette has a contemporary vision.

Warm ginger orange and yellow reflective of the eucalyptus leaves and bark are paired with clean and refreshing greens. Dark charcoals and crisp whites round off the finishes and provide a neutral complementary backdrop that is perfect for wine tasting and other scientific and business activities.

Executive areas are delineated with a reconstituted timber veneer providing an elegant and simple aesthetic.

Many international visitors and staff expect 'state of the art' facilities in a leading food and wine research building and the quality of finishes and design is integral to that philosophy.

Predominantly white laboratories with much natural light provide effective research conditions and the modular units in the laboratories are designed for maximum flexibility.

The changing nature of research allows the end users to configure their lab spaces in many different combinations with ease.

Services droppers suspended from the ceiling provide clearer bench space and increase visibility in the laboratory from one end to the other.

The interior fitout is seamlessly integrated with the outdoors and the workplace culture is enriched by the open plan format.

Externally, the façade is clad with a proprietary cladding system by Austral Bricks called Pilbarra Linear Terraçade XP. It is a system that combines the low maintenance, self-finishing and sustainability properties of terracotta with the benefits of a modern curtain wall system.

It features individual terracotta cladding panels which echo the rich earth tones of the site. The system has a series of horizontal “rules” that add to the surface texture, giving the elements a more tactile character; it helps to control the building’s feeling of verticality and relates the new building to the existing fabric of the campus.

A deep brise soleil on the north façade, aluminium sun shading on the south façade, work in conjunction with motorised blinds at the end of the east west corridors to prevent excessive glare and create a consistently balanced stream of daylight.

Professor Sakkie Pretorius, Managing Director of The Australian Wine Research Institute said: "We have been serving the national wine sector for more than 50 years and these fantastic new facilities designed by **HASSELL** will assist Australia to maintain its wine research leadership role. The Wine Innovation Cluster will be able to accommodate and attract the brightest scientists from Australia and around the world to apply their skills for Australia's benefit."

The Wine Innovation Cluster comprises three buildings: WIC East, the Hickinbotham Roseworthy Wine Science Laboratory; WIC Central, the building designed by **HASSELL**; and WIC West, a building housing CSIRO and Provisor.

The Wine Innovation Central building, the focus of the facility, has been designed to be a world-leading laboratory and research facility for national and international clients and visitors.

It will focus on economic developments in the domestic and international markets for wine and their implications for competitiveness of the Australian grape and wine sector.

The Cluster will support applied research, extension and development, but will also be engaged in teaching and outreach activities related to its theme of wine research and economics.

Vice Chancellor and President of the University of Adelaide Professor James McWha said: “The Cluster's research and the high quality architecture of the building will further enhance the University's already high reputation for research and education.”

HASSELL Managing Principal Mariano De Duonni said: “The Wine Innovation Cluster is way ahead of anything other wine producing countries have to offer. We are proud to have designed its centrepiece building. It is an excellent example of new campus design; low key and understated; it is a building that will stand the test of time as an architectural contribution to the campus.”

He continued; “it heralds a whole new and exciting level of leadership for the Australian wine industry and firmly cements Adelaide as the global home of wine innovation from the customer right back to the vine.”

Centred on the Central Building, the Cluster will be the facilitator of an increased connection between the five parties of the WIC Concept: The Australian Wine Research Institute, the University of Adelaide, CSIRO, Provisor and the broader community of scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, policymakers, industry professionals and technologists, all engaged in all dimensions of wine and science-related activities.

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For further press information and images:

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Project Credits

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