

Janet McFarlane has left the State Library of NSW where she worked for 16 years to join Blackwell's to run the newly created periodical help desk. In her new position Janet will assist in the provision of the company's periodical service for Australian and New Zealand material, as well as handle periodical customer services enquiries re-

ferred to Blackwell's Sydney office.

Margaret Whitstock, formerly Reference/Circulation Librarian at the Binwood Campus of Deakin University, has been Assistant Law Librarian at the University of Hong Kong for the past four years. She is now taking up the position of Systems Librarian at the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand

(TOPNZ). Margaret was a member of the Committee of the Victorian Branch of the Cataloguers' Section, and represented them on the Victorian Branch Council.

She is looking forward to re-newing Australian contacts at the ALIA/NZLIA joint conference in Wellington, where she is now located. ■

The evolution of change

Julie Phillips chronicles a 16-year association between a local architect and the City of Prospect

David Gilbert, from the national architectural firm Woodhead Firth Lee (formerly Woodhead Australia), first became involved with the Corporation of the City of Prospect, SA, and the Nailsworth Primary School in 1977, when he was commissioned to adapt part of the school building into a public library. David recalls that at the time he had to argue strongly for the retention and re-use of the existing building.

David believes that in many cases new is not necessarily the answer. In this case, the school building was ideally located for a library building. The building was much loved by the community and on completion could be used by both the general public and students from the school. Not having to purchase land for the project reduced the cost and the planning stages proved that a functionally efficient library could be developed from the existing resource.

In 1987 David was again approached by the City of Prospect, this time to turn an old house next door to the Library into a Community Arts Centre. A new building was also required between the two older buildings, to be used as an Art Gallery, linking all three buildings together. Like the first, this second commission proved extremely suc-

cessful: the new building was built of stone to match the originals, integrating old and new perfectly.

Late last year, David Gilbert completed a third commission, funded from the 1992 Federal Local Government Capital Works Program, to enlarge the library by enclosing a former courtyard.

A curving roof linked the two wings of the old building; the east facade is all glass, shaded by a decorative timber screen reminiscent of the

old school yard shelter shed. This glass wall feature within the third stage has given an unexpected benefit, bringing natural light right into the centre of the library itself. The users of the library took to their new area as if it were a new family room within their home!

After 16 years of development, the result is a community facility that fully satisfies the needs of its modern-day users, more than a century after the original building was constructed. ■



This interior view captures the feeling of light and space

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