

New designs unveiled for the State Library of South Australia

An architectural model for the \$41-million re-development of the State Library of South Australia has been unveiled by the chairman of the Libraries Board of SA, Peter Wylie.

The State Library on North Terrace — one of South Australia's most visited cultural institutions — last had a major upgrade in 1967. A preliminary project to strengthen the library's historic Jervois Wing is almost completed, with construction of the major re-development due to commence in August.

Mr Wylie said the library complex, which incorporates the City of Adelaide Lending Library as well as the State Library, attracts over one million visitors a year, making it the most used public building in South Australia.

The Library complex presently comprises two significant heritage buildings and an outdated 1960s wing that joins one of the buildings and cuts off previous access to the historic Armory precinct behind the library. The re-development will not only rectify these problems, it will provide beautiful and contemporary fa-

ilities, which will also highlight and make better use of the heritage buildings.

The redevelopment is part of the South Australian government's \$110 million commitment to the upgrading of North Terrace, designed to heighten the experience of the precinct for visitors, students, tourists and the general public.

A key visual focus of the new building will be a striking, transparent, glass structure entrance featuring a cathedral ceiling. It will be surrounded on all sides by natural light and be easily visible to passing traffic along North Terrace. At night, the entrance will be a welcoming beacon.

Bronwyn Halliday, director of the State Library of South Australia says the designs have built in significant flexibility for staffing and functions to evolve and change over time. 'In an era marked by rapid development and change in information needs and technology, such flexibility is a hallmark for the library of the future', she said.



(Forecourt) A key visual focus of the new building will be the transparent, glass structure entrance featuring a cathedral ceiling.

The project will include a complete upgrade to on-line services, with almost ten per cent of the re-development budget being allocated to information technology. Off-site or remote users will enjoy increased access to the collections with a greater emphasis on the digital library.

The scale model, together with floor plans, elevations and artist's impressions are now on public display in the State Library on North Terrace.

The new State Library complex is due to open in 2003. ■

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