



*'Elegant & timeless': the use of glass connects the new Library building to its environment - Image courtesy of fjmt*

will indicate which items are in the ASRS, with clients being able to order items online and collect them from a service point. The retrieval process takes just a few minutes, meaning all of the Library's physical collections are immediately available.

Browsing of the stored collection will be 'virtual' and the Library is exploring ways to augment online descriptions of books and journals to maximise their visibility.

### Green

The new Library is aiming to achieve a rare 5 Green Star rating from the Green Building Council of Australia. To qualify, the entire lifecycle of the building needs to be planned beforehand, from the environmental impact of the materials in creation, the impact of the operation of the building during its life, to the disposal of materials after it is dismantled.

The expected completion date is 2010 and the cost is \$77 million. More project details are available at <http://www.lib.mq.edu.au/newlibrary/>

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## Building within an established building

In 2007, Curtin University Library was given a budget of nearly \$1 million to develop a bold, creative and innovative learning space to support student-centred learning. The aim was to provide technology-rich, attractive surroundings incorporating different zones for wireless laptops, freestanding express computers, high quality graphics workstations, a presentation space with wall-mounted LCD screens, as well as areas utilising bluetooth and web-camera enabled PCs.



*Construction at Curtin*

Creating the new iZone required research, planning and preparation because it had to be developed within the Robertson Library building due to its central location on the Bentley campus. The building is an iconic 1970s structure which had last been

extensively renovated twenty years ago. Much of the internal structure cannot be tampered with so adding windows or external doorways was out of the question.

It was decided to gut an area on level two and careful consideration was given to blending the more 'dated' design elements with innovative requirements. Decisions were based on feedback from regular library and university surveys about

clients' opinion of current facilities and the improvements they wanted.

Unlike a new building starting from scratch, the budget had to factor in the costs of demolition and removal of the old infrastructure of offices, such as internal walls. After demolition, work began in earnest in the second half of 2008. What quickly became apparent was that the 40 year old infrastructure had inadequate power points for the today's technology. Inventive ways to overcome this lack included incorporating metal troughs into the concrete floor to allow electrical wiring to be accessible throughout the area and installing power points in the bench seating along the walls for laptop users.

Another consequence of building 'within a building' was that services had to continue even though part of the library had become a construction site. On the plus side, having an established building meant fewer planning permissions were needed and teething problems for the building itself have already been sorted!

Opened at the end of October 2007, the new space now provides flexible facilities that accommodate evolving technologies for a diversity of client use.

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## Palace and shed

'Studied informality' was the headline used to describe the Sunshine Coast TAFE Noosa centre at Tewantin when it first opened. (*Architecture Australia* 2005, v94(4)). Around the same time 'Palace and shed' was the headline in the local Weekender magazine. Both are saying the same thing about style and comfort, and low environmental impact.

Designed by Don Watson to suit the energy and water smart sustainability focus of the then Noosa Shire, and built in stylish alternating greys of corrugated iron and louvre panels, it caters for arts, tourism, aged care, language, computing and vocational access programs.

The layout is in a double winged style with central open atrium set in bushland with winding driveway to hide the low level building from the road. Spaces include gallery, pottery and painting studios as well as classrooms and computer rooms. The building won the annual Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) FDG Stanley Award for Public Architecture prize for its year, as well as the Harry Marks Award for Sustainable Architecture, and several other design awards.

Water is recycled from the roof via a series of short downpipes which become dramatic water features during storms. A dry creek bed of stones channels this runoff to underground and above ground tanks for use as grey water. A local Bushland Study group gathered seeds from the site prior to construction and landscaping was natural revegetation with no exotic planting. Botanical samples of cuttings were collected into three folders (trees, understorey, weeds) then catalogued in the library for reference by local conservation groups and horticulture students.

Library and administration are in a standalone building with cross ventilation and climate friendly design features. The library is a boutique space with full floor to ceiling glass outlook to the adjoining bush, and high sloping ceilings.

# LIBRARY BUILDINGS

Signage is minimal, and there are three silk screened black and white photographic print ceiling banners by Richard Stringer, matching his mural in the main entry foyer overlaid by Judith Wright's poem 'At Cooloola'.



Sunshine Coast TAFE Noosa centre at Tewantin

Photo by Helen Martyn and Joy Paul

For the third year in a row, the Cert. IV and Diploma Visual Arts art students have claimed the top spot on Sunshine Coast TAFE library's statistics for the subject group who average the most loans from any of the four campus libraries. Students say that it's a very nice place to be—restful and full of light.

The library may have benefited from a closer consultation process with the project team when it came to the circulation desk and workstation design. The front desk is a large expanse of stainless steel with limited functionality—a case of form over function here.

This is a library with its face to nature and its soul in the arts, and is certainly a delight to work in every day.

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## New Logan North Library—the library everybody loves

"I LOVE the new library. It is so spacious and roomy. I love the lounges and coffee and TVs and study rooms and meeting rooms..."

*(A customer's comments regarding the new library at Logan North)*

Community response to the new Logan North Library has been overwhelmingly positive since it opened on Monday 4 August 2008. Boasting state-of-the-art facilities, customers have been especially impressed by the library's welcoming and comfortable ambiance. In less than two months since opening, over 838 new members have joined and 75 000 loans have been issued.

Logan City Council Libraries (LCCL) began the monumental task of relocating its Logan North Branch in October 2006. The lease on the existing premises was due to expire in 2008, opening the way for LCCL to purchase a site to accommodate the new library. Designed by Wilson Architects, key considerations for the construction of the new library included taking best advantage of the site for energy efficiency, minimising wasted or 'dead' spaces, keeping the design to one level whilst elevated over an existing car park, and finding space for an extra 40 car parks.

New or expanded services include:

- 18 public access PCs
- an Accessibility Centre including 5 PCs with adaptive technology for customers with special needs
- a drive through 'stop and drop' for book returns

- a meeting room and a community workspace available to non-profit community organisations
- self serve coffee and drink machines
- quiet study rooms
- plasma TV with Foxtel
- dedicated areas for storytimes, young adults, reading and relaxation.

Another key feature of this library includes a trial of shelving some of the non-fiction collection by genre. Genres include Crafts, Careers, Health, Computing, House and Garden and Parenting. The aim of creating these collections is to assist borrowers find items that the Dewey Decimal System would traditionally separate. To date, the trial has proved a resounding success and very popular with borrowers.

Opening celebrations included a breakfast with author Marcus Zusak, who also facilitated two writing workshops on the day for both teen and adult participants. Over 250 children and adults also enjoyed a Kids Fun Day which included a superhero show, face painting, balloon twisting, give-aways and a very special visit from the Vegie Man!

Library staff have also embraced their new workspace with great enthusiasm and love sharing all the library has to offer with customers. In particular, the staff enjoy using the innovative ergonomic returns area with electronic dump bin and combined re-sensitiser and check in facility.

This is Logan City Council Libraries fourth major building project in the last decade and is an outstanding accomplishment considering that Logan City's geographical size and population almost doubled overnight as a result of the recent Queensland Local Government Reform.

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## Big changes in the Top End

Exciting news for Darwin libraries! Casuarina Library, the main library in the Northern Territory's largest public library service, is in the middle of a major upgrade which will transform the library into a more streamlined and welcoming environment. The refurbishment is all part of Darwin City Council's (DCC) continued support and commitment to public library services in the Top End.

DCC libraries have over 37 000 registered members across their four libraries—Casuarina, Darwin City, Karama and Nightcliff, and circulation of over 48,000 per month (July 2008). Casuarina Library has been in its current location for 28 years. The close proximity to Darwin's biggest shopping centre makes the library all the more appealing.

The library closed its doors on 12 September 2008 for the expected ten-week project, and hopes to reopen by the end of November 2008. Services will continue at the three other branches with extra staffing so there is minimal impact on the community.

At a cost of \$1.2 million, the upgrade will provide a more modern facility with services such as self check-out, and a dedicated returns room. It is all part of making the library more user friendly for customers and staff alike. Included in the upgrade will be new carpets, all new shelving, furniture and improved air conditioning—a necessity for the Top End!