



04 **newsletter**
december 2008

MSJ mcconnel
smith
&
johnson

McConnel Smith & Johnson Pty Ltd
ACN 000 929 831
ABN 45 000 929 831

Architecture
Urban Design
Planning
Interiors
Graphics

Nominated Registered Architects and Directors

MS Willett Reg. No 5327
B Arch (Hons)

IE Moon Reg. No 5137
B Arch (Hons)

A Capsalis Reg. No 6305
B Arch MA (Hlth Fac Plng) RAlA

Senior Associate

K Lakis
B Arch MDIA

Associates

M Chowdhury
B Arch MSc (Urban Planning) IAB BIP

I Empson
B Arch (Hons)

J Zadro
B Arch

Consultant

JS Wyndham
B Arch (Hons) DipTCP FRAIA

35 Richards
Avenue
Surry Hills
NSW 2010
Australia

PO Box 210
Darlinghurst
NSW 1300
Australia

t +612 8353 8888
f +612 9332 2402

msjarchitects @ msgroup.com.au
www.msgroup.com.au

cover image: Centennial Park Cafe
Photography by Richard Glover

> **about us**



MSJ excels as a multi disciplinary design practice with a broad range of experience in the fields of health, education and research. As recently discussed by Director Ian Moon, in his presentation entitled 'Reinventing Hospitals, Health Planning vs. Architecture,' at the Australian Institute of Architects, it is this multi - skilled design approach that adds to the diversity and interest within our health facilities and maintains our leadership in the changing face of Hospital Architecture both locally and overseas.

Centennial Park Cafe

> **news update**

More detail on these updates will be featured in future MSJ News.

BERNIE BANTON CENTRE

■ MSJ's design for eight new research laboratories for the Asbestos Disease Research Institute will be opened at Concord by the Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd in January 2009. The facility will be known as the Bernie Banton Centre in honour of the man who helped raise public awareness of the disease.

CAIRNS HOSPITAL

■ MSJ has started the design for \$450 million redevelopment of Cairns Hospital in Queensland. The redevelopment will accommodate 450 beds on the existing hospital site. MSJ is working on the project in association with Daryl Jackson Architects.

NEW ZEALAND PROJECTS

■ The \$25 million redevelopment of Wanganui Hospital, designed and documented by MSJ, in association with New Zealand based Jasmax, is almost complete. With an end budget of \$300 million, work at Waikato Hospital continues on the Intensive Care, Cardiology Services and the Pathology Labs. The work is another collaboration between MSJ, Jasmax and Chow Hill of New Zealand.

> **recently completed**

In the context of the Centennial Park setting and the redevelopment of the existing pavilion, MSJ's design for the new cafe, kiosk, public facilities and information desk was conceived as a minimalist intervention. Because of its link to the heritage of the park the Centennial Park Trust requested that the existing pavilion be retained and directly connected to the proposed building.

MSJ's Design Director, Mark Willett and Senior Associate, Kathy Lakis worked carefully to position the new building between the existing tent like roofs of the retained pavilion and two grand old fig trees. In close proximity, the canopies of the mature trees have produced in the completed project the immediate sensual benefit of a verdant domed space over the new cafe and kiosk entrances.

The new building's dramatic horizontal eaves shade the large sliding glass screens, which create both a visual transparency and when opened, a physical permeability. From inside the building, the park's vistas expand from the surrounding timber deck. Viewed from outside, the arbour of the magnificent figs is framed through the building by the glass screens. Natural light also filters through the south facing, translucent glass walls into the new rest rooms. The simplicity expressed in MSJ's linear concept complements the form of the original pavilion while enhancing the capacity and amenity of the facility.

The Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust commissioned MSJ as architects and the restaurant licensee Brien Trippas engaged Mark Landini and Associates to design the fit out of the tenancy. By incorporating MSJ's selection of glass and natural materials, the fit out by Landini seamlessly connects with MSJ's design intent.

The Centennial Park Restaurant, Cafe and Kiosk was opened to the public in November.



Centennial Park Cafe - Photography by Richard Glover

> **recent projects**
UNDER CONSTRUCTION



The new Student Amenities Building at Granville TAFE will be ready for the new year. The building will activate the new central courtyard and provide the campus with a fresh new urban focus.

specialist skills
DIRECTOR IAN MOON TALKS ABOUT DESIGN & HEALTH

From your observations over many years of experience, does health planning normally take precedence over Architecture in the design process?

Clinicians and administrators of health services often believe the key to exemplary health design is primarily achieved through meeting the clinical expectations of hospital users. This is not architecture, and one dimensional planning tends to be the central focus of hospital design where it should be a part of the overall design process.

Why?

Because all parties, patients staff and the public deserve to get a better, more holistic result.

Put another way, does health planning affect the architecture of a health building?

Absolutely, but the design process for health facilities should balance clinical outcomes with an environment that is not only conducive to the healing process but one which is enjoyable, sustainable and produces an exemplary architectural experience.

So, what role should architecture play in health design?

Architecture has the same role in health as for any public building. Historically health buildings were a part of the communities they served, both providing a public image and focus beyond the basic required service. They were much like universities, community centres etc. Unfortunately in recent years with the advent of the large scale tertiary hospitals, the public significance has been down graded in favour of clinical outcomes.

If you ask a member of public if they would visit a health campus for any other reason than for an emergency or to visit a sick relative I am sure they would say, "No!" Health campuses need to provide a variety of public functions including education, research and recreational opportunities. They should be connected to their immediate environment, and provide an engaging architectural experience.

Has the international work you have done influenced your current practice?

Our work in Asia and New Zealand and more recently in far North Queensland has reinforced the significance that alternate cultures have on the design of health campuses. In New Zealand we spent time understanding the needs of the Maori community in particular their sensitivity to treatment of the deceased, called Tupapaku, and the influence this had on functional planning.

In far North Queensland, Cairns Hospital serves indigenous Australians from a wide jurisdiction, and from many tribes. Our joint venture partner Deb Fisher has been influential, educating MSJ in the importance of separate and intimate outdoor spaces that these groups require. Its all part of a constant learning process.



MSJ welcomes your questions and comments, please direct your feedback to: feedback@msjgroup.com.au