

DA Lodged For Parramatta Square's Cutting-Edge Civic Building

By Team Fiji Times - September 15, 2017

City of Parramatta Council has lodged the Development Application (DA) for the exterior design of its landmark civic and community building at 5 Parramatta Square. The cutting-edge glass construction, designed by an international consortium comprised of French firm Manuelle Gautrand Architecture and Australian firms DesignInc and Lacoste + Stevenson, has undergone changes to comply with new planning regulations while maintaining the wave-shaped façade of crystalline blocks that will make the building so unique.

5 Parramatta Square will cover six storeys, connecting with, and extending above the historic Parramatta Town Hall. Central to the design is a stack of transparent glass that gradually rises to the north-east with a large LED screen for public art projections. When first unveiled, the building's original design complied with existing planning regulations in relation to sun access to Parramatta Square. However, it was necessary to alter the design after the Greater Sydney Commission determined that solar access to the Square must be maintained.





In a creative response to the changed planning regulations, Council has included a retractable spire on the building to ensure sun access to Parramatta Square is retained. The design modifications include a more complementary integration with the existing Town Hall which will result in a total useable floor area of 6536sqm. City of Parramatta Council Chief Executive Officer Greg Dyer says 5 Parramatta Square makes a bold and creative statement about Parramatta's place in Global Sydney.

"Parramatta's new civic and community building will be a 21st century design. The architects have maintained the contemporary and thought-provoking design that will cement 5 Parramatta Square as the civic heart of the City," Mr Dyer said. "In addition to its unique appearance, the building will be a hub for the community, with the glass façade encapsulating a library, roof garden, meeting rooms and much more."

The modified design has been endorsed by Council's Design Jury which agreed that the current proposal retains the spirit and intent of the original competition-winning scheme. In evaluating the new design, the jury said: "We are in full support of the scheme presented, and acknowledge the time and effort that has gone into redesigning the proposal to reflect changing program, budget and planning requirements."

The completion date for the building is now anticipated to be 2020. The current DA focuses on the external design of 5 Parramatta Square. Council is finalising the internal design and uses of the space and will undertake further community engagement before a separate DA is lodged. The plans are now on exhibition until 4 October and can be viewed online at www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/parramatta-square-updates

They can also be viewed at Council's Central Library, and Council officers will be at the Parramatta Farmers Market in Centenary Square on Friday 22 September from 11.30am to 1.30pm to provide information and answer any questions.