

## DA lodged for 5 Parramatta Square

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Parramatta Council has lodged the development application 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 consist of six storeys and will connect with and extend above 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.



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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 ruled that solar access to the Square must be maintained.

In a creative response to the changed planning regulations, the 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 6536 square metres.

"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," council chief executive Greg 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 the council's design jury, which agreed that the current proposal retains the spirit and intent of the original competition-winning scheme.

"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 jury said.

The completion date for the building is 2020.

The 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 on public exhibition until October 4. They can also be viewed at the council's Central Library. Council staff will be at the Parramatta Farmers Market in Centenary Square this Friday (September 22), 11.30am-1.30pm to answer questions.

Details: <http://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/parramatta-square-updates>.

Original story: <http://www.parramattasun.com.au/story/3955349/from-paris-to-parramatta/>.