

Chris van Uffelen

BUILDINGS FOR BOOKS

Contemporary
Library
Architecture

BRAUN

Project PHIVE CIVIC CENTERParramatta Architecture Manuelle Gautrand
Architecture; Designinc; Lacoste & StevensonAddress 5 Parramatta Square, ParramattaNSW 2150, Australia Client Parramatta CityCouncil Completion 2023 Size 15,000 m² Type of
library Public, with Multimedia and Manuscripts
Reading seats 400

a



b

Stairs connecting the two floors

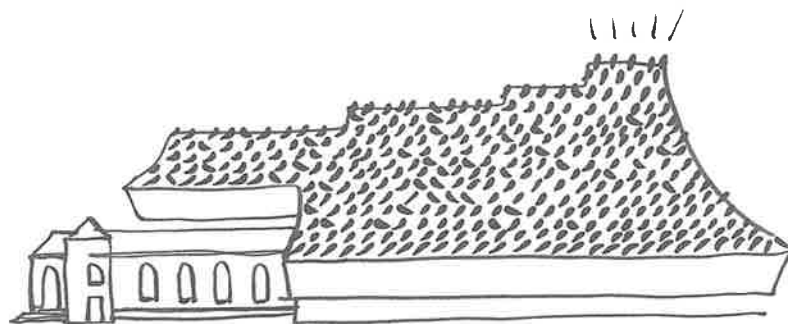
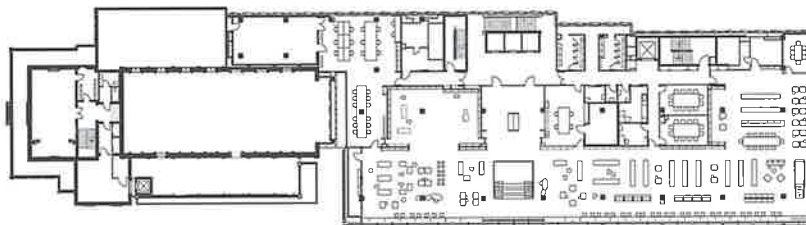
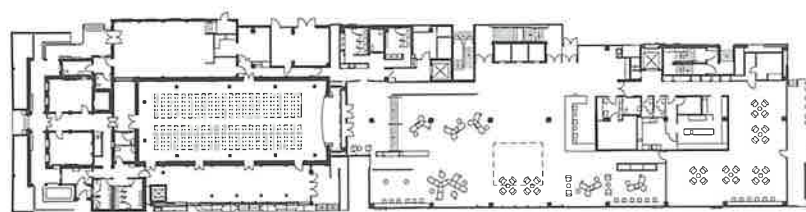


b

c

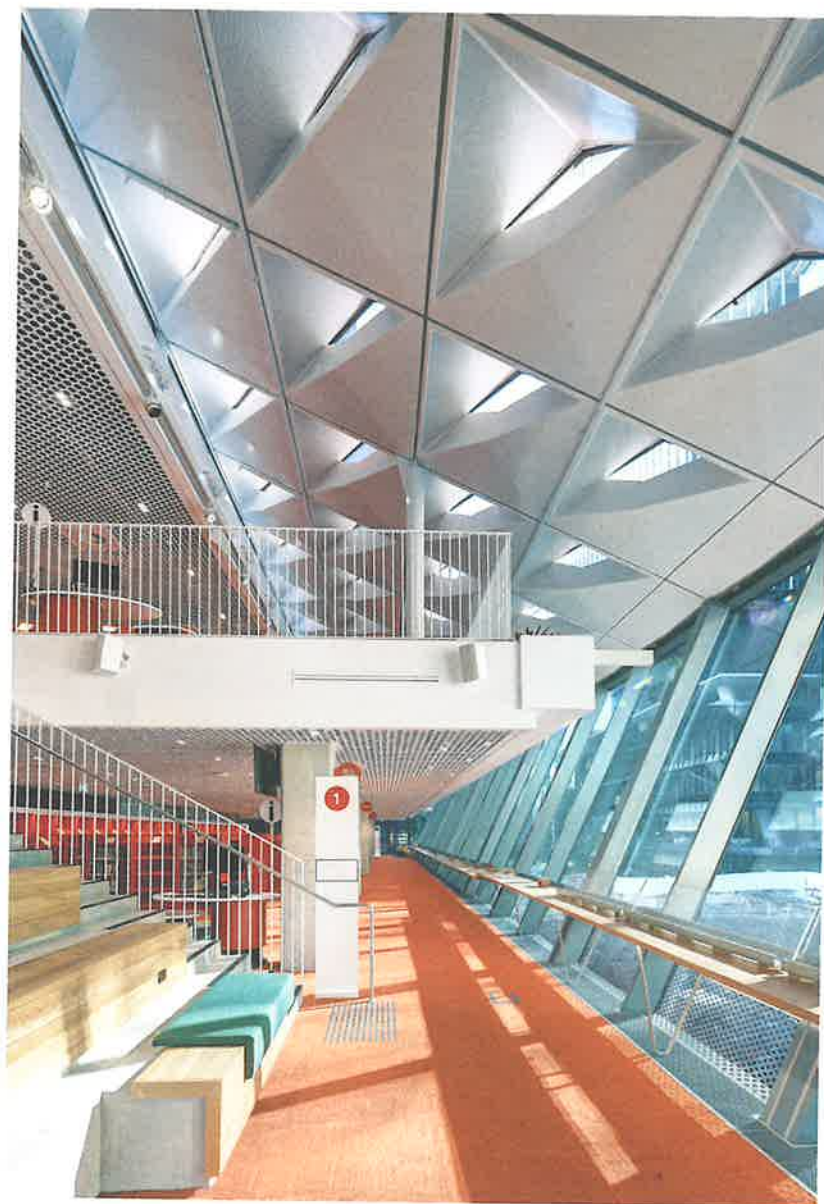
Ground and second
Floor plan and Manuelle
Gautrand's drawing

137



c

This project is a public and cultural Facility featuring community and exhibition spaces as well as the City of Parramatta's Council Chamber. A place where locals and visitors can meet, discover, learn and share. Its triangular outline is shaped according to the course of the sun, to allow the sun to shine on the square all year round. The roof curves slightly toward the top of the new civic spire, with colors moving from dark to light. The envelope is a highly sustainable skin that filters light and views, creating a poetic atmosphere for the exterior and interior of the project. Inside this chiseled volume, a cascade of levels faces the square in a kind of giant amphitheater. The higher one climbs, the more narrow and intimate the spaces become.



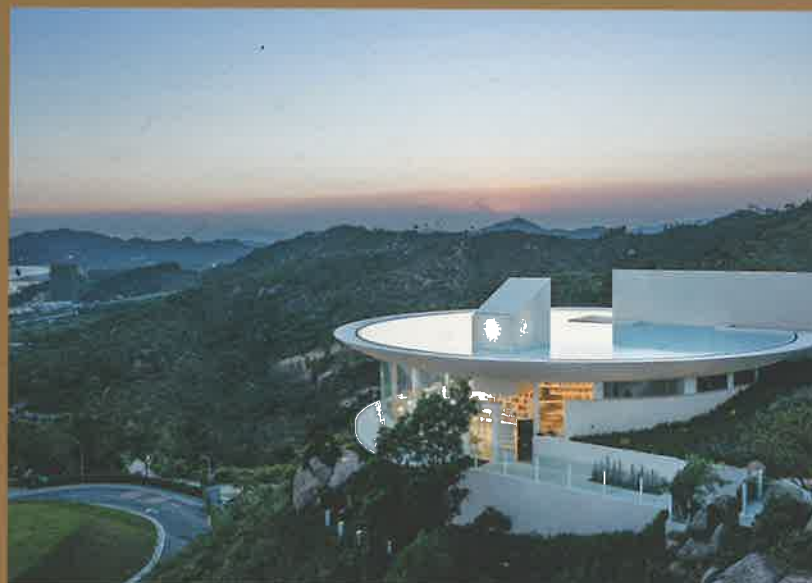
d



ef

g





Libraries are sites of learning, research and discovery, but also for interaction and exchange. The institution as such is in the midst of a remarkable image shift from an introverted knowledge repository to a globally networked information provider and communication mediator. The demands on this cornerstone of modern civilization have changed enormously, as libraries now have to meet the latest digital demands involving new forms of media and the methods in which they are consumed.

The architectural expression of this expanded and constantly evolving profile of requirements makes library construction very multi-layered and complex. Yet, this is also precisely a source of enormous potential for bold designs and ingenious aesthetic concepts. Whether it is a new building, a conversion, or an extension, this volume shows the diversity of the building task with its interplay of state-of-the-art technology and the cultural demands of our age.

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