



Photograph: Trevor Mein.

CORNERSTONES OF LEARNING

BEST COMMERCIAL PROJECT

The Camberwell Grammar School for boys in Melbourne demonstrates the successful planning of a private school campus, resolving integrating additional built facilities, landscaping and onsite car parking, highlighted by a striking modern display of ancient stone.

Melbourne-based architectural firm Architectus established the design principles to accommodate the future direction of the school. These principles encompassed existing and proposed pedestrian and vehicular access, spatial quality, the scale of open spaces, and integrated landscape design. The plan acknowledged the importance of existing buildings and identified opportunities within the campus for new facilities including the HR McDonald Building, which covers a floor area of 5000 square metres and incorporates a library and information centre, art rooms for multimedia and ceramics, and general classrooms.

The building is L-shaped, with the library along Mont Albert Road frontage and the classroom wing connecting into the existing art and science building.

The library covers two levels looking out through a glazed curtain wall to the south, while the upper level also looks inward toward a grassed courtyard. The classroom wing is designed around a three-storey atrium with a louvered screen to the courtyard for weather protection.

The building's external façade – some 300 square metres – has been clad in Mount White sandstone from Gosford Quarries. The brown coloured sandstone was chosen for its beautiful, natural characteristics and the 50 mm thick slabs were gang-sawn to give the sandstone its distinctive and dynamic stripes.

The slabs were processed into 800 x 800 x 50 mm panels by Baron Forge who installed more than 500 sandstone panels over a 30-day period. The panels were attached to the building using stainless steel mechanical fixings.

Specifications

Project:
Camberwell Grammar School

Architect:
Architectus, Melbourne

Project manager:
Bovis Lend Lease

Stone supplier:
Gosford Quarries

Stone process or/fixer:
Baron Forge

Stone:
Mount White sandstone supplied in 50 mm thick slabs with a gang-sawn finish and processed into more than 500 panels sized 800 x 800 x 50 mm

Rooms/areas tiled:
Approximately 300 square metres of building façade

Location:
55 Mont Albert Road, Canterbury, Victoria