

QUIT



dwp



Adapting to Change

Like most modern universities, Queensland University of Technology (QUT) is an organic organisation in a positive state of physical and pedagogical flux. Increasing student numbers, shifting patterns of movement, the desire for improved accessibility and the push toward more adaptable, flexible and collaborative learning environments have all impacted the campus masterplan.

dwp embraces this state of change and has worked with QUT over 20 years to resolve complex masterplan issues, including many that are typically considered beyond the realm of architecture.

Context

QUT Gardens Point Campus is a dense urban setting which has grown over a century to become a charismatic and engaging place of learning. The campus is bound on all sides, contained by Queensland Parliament House, City Botanic Gardens and the serpentine course of the Brisbane River. Well-connected to the CBD and South Brisbane, the campus is a thriving and burgeoning metropolis confined within a very finite physical boundary.

Naturally space on campus is at a premium. Expansion is now only possible through demolition and brownfield development; underlining the strategic importance of repurposing existing spaces for optimal use. For this reason, dwp is committed to the opportunities found in the refurbishment, extension and more efficient use of existing building stock.

QUT Campus Map

- dwp's Major Works
- dwp's Minor Works
- Existing QUT Buildings



Innovation and Transformation

Students' expectations of learning are changing rapidly; contemporary tertiary environments have to extend learning opportunities to suit modern lifestyles. The integration of information and communication technologies is essential to facilitate 24/7 access to collaborative teaching and learning.

Like many established universities, QUT has building stock that does not readily support this evolution in teaching, learning and research for increasingly diverse cultures and communities. dwp's approach to the physical design of university facilities responds to demands for more open, flexible and adaptable spaces.



Meeting the Brief

dwp has worked with QUT for over 20 years across their two main campuses at Kelvin Grove and Gardens Point. Of the 21 buildings at Gardens Point, dwp has contributed to major and minor adaptive reuse projects in 14, always maintaining a respect for the heritage fabric of the campus.

Some of the challenges inherent in the re-living of these facilities are:

- compliance with the National Construction Code including design for disability
- achieving functional outcomes within the constraints of heritage environments
- integration of building services upgrades into the existing building fabric
- providing open, flexible spaces within existing structural constraints
- improving sustainability

The challenges are generally overcome, often with spectacular results.



Sustainability

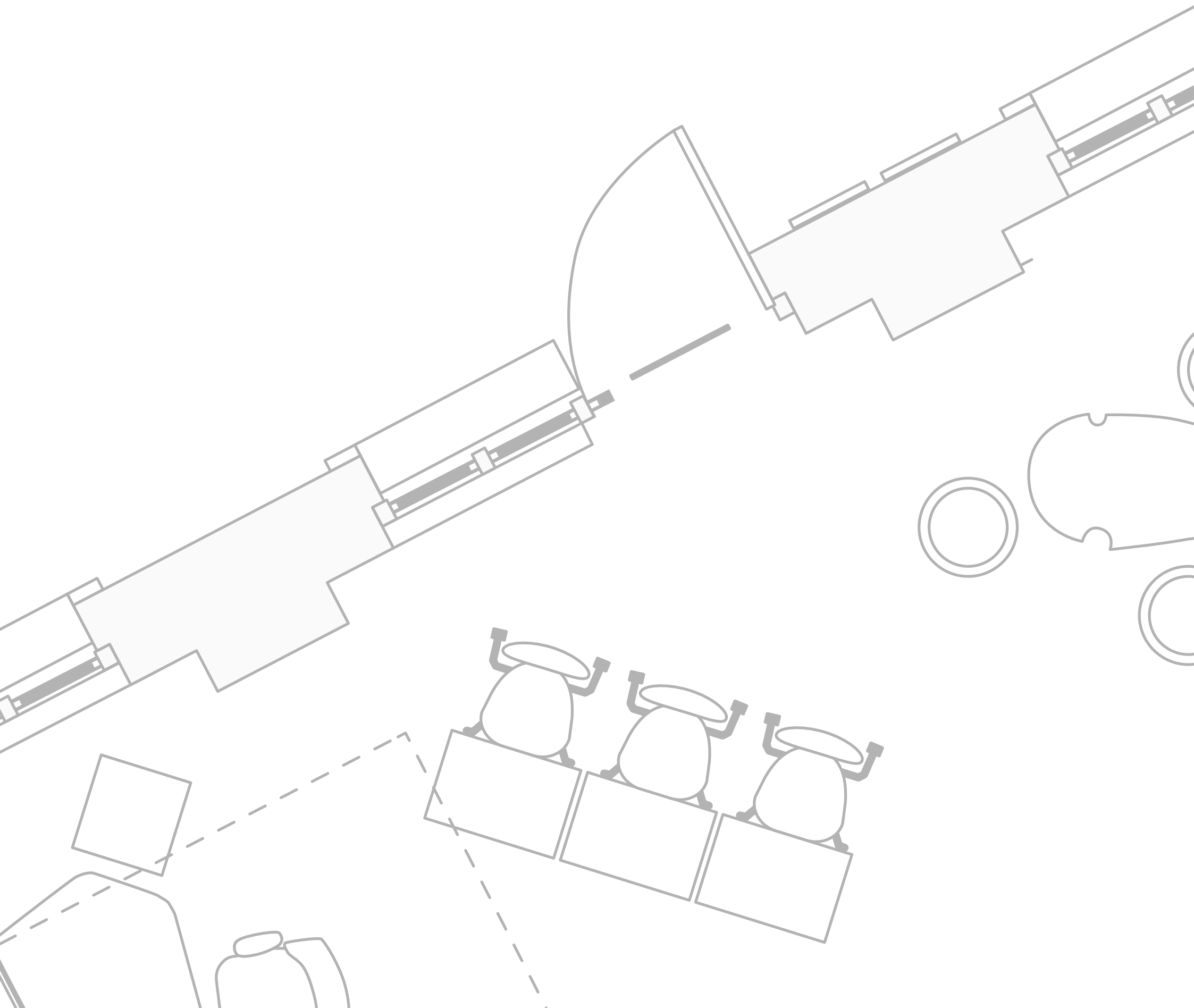
Whilst some building stock is not suited to redevelopment, our work demonstrates that many existing heritage and more recent buildings are quite capable of undergoing a re-living approach to sustainably provide for the increasing student population, evolving pedagogy, research and the collaborative needs of the new century.

dwp incorporates sustainability into our work for QUT to create well-lit, healthy, comfortable environments while saving money, reducing energy consumption, improving air quality and increasing natural light without impacting heat gain.

Evolving the Typology

The following six projects offer insights into our contribution to the physical and educational evolution of QUT. They are examples of significant architectural interventions at differing scales and with varied spatial purposes that demonstrate our focus on the public realm and celebrate the 'life force' of this historic institution.

Whilst realised independently and at different times, each project explores recurring themes of connectivity, accessibility, permeability and activation as a means to promote the 'sticky' campus.



S Block: Addressing The Evolving Campus

dwp's \$16 million redevelopment of S Block sees the introduction of innovative new space planning and comprehensive refurbishment over five levels for two distinct faculties: Built Environment & Engineering and Science & Technology.

dwp's brief was to break down the existing barriers of containment and redefine movement patterns. Our spatial solutions open up the floors, bringing natural light into the core, and create a collaborative, contemporary workplace for students and staff. This encourages spontaneous social interaction and peer based learning through a focus on day to day 'events'.

A single colour theme is introduced on each level to define vertical circulation and promote intuitive wayfinding without the use of signage.

Extensive upgrades to the base building services deliver full compliance with current building codes. The S Block project is an exemplar of client and project team working together to deliver an outstanding outcome.





Q Block: The Superlab

QUT engaged dwp to reinvent this nine level, 40 year old building into a state of the art Life Sciences teaching facility. The stakeholder issues were complex and required a comprehensive change management approach, so the project commenced with a consultative visioning process. Led by a sociologist, faculty staff and students were invited to envision the Superlab of the future. The result is a leading class 3D medical radiation teaching facility and a 150 student multidisciplinary Superlab which incorporates world class technologies in a single, flexible, open, dynamic teaching laboratory.

There was a further issue at Q Block, the original main entrance had been overtaken by campus development and the wayfinding was muddled. We solved this by reorienting hotspot flow points and introducing a large new entrance which clearly defines the address point. Our solution introduces a new link that directly connects Q Block with important activity nodes of the campus, including the main library.

The building exterior is comprehensively refreshed and building services and compliance issues are resolved. We facilitated a challenging fasttrack program for this \$18.5 million project, delivering completion by the start of the academic year.

Q Block was recognised in the 2016 Queensland AIA Awards with a Commendation for the interiors.

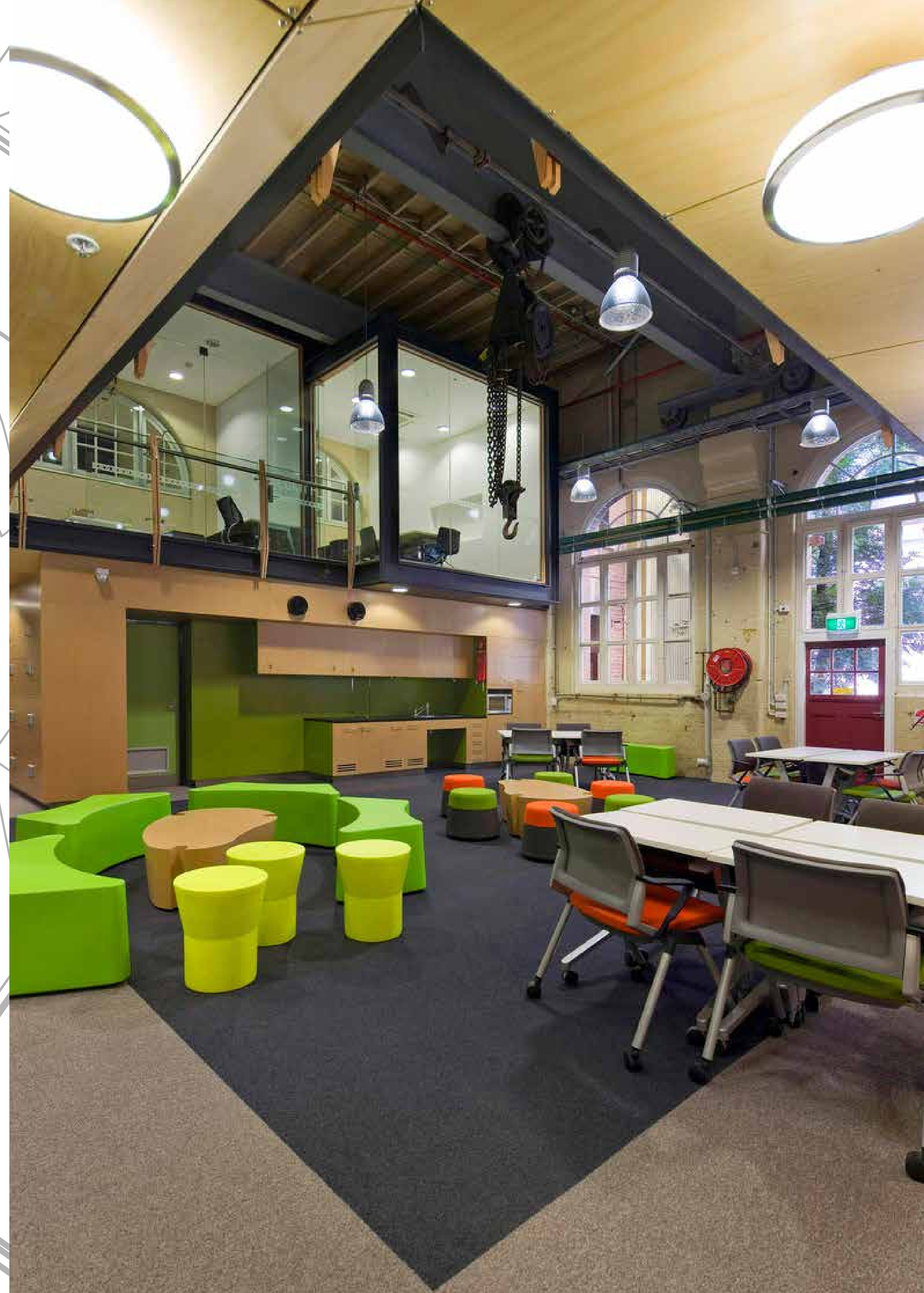


H Block: The Secret Garden

History had overtaken H Block despite its strategic location within the core of the campus. Our concept for the adaptive reuse of H Block is inspired by the location; hidden amongst other buildings, a forgotten treasure. 'The Secret Garden' reflects notions of new thought and the powerful mind, and implies a sanctuary for the higher degree research students who study there. It's a place to inspire creativity and new ideas.

The new \$1.4 million research centre now optimises multi functionality and flexibility, with workstations that can be reconfigured by the user, a large studio space for group work, and glazed meeting rooms; bringing life, colour and activity to the interior of the building. New internal elements are chosen carefully to contrast and interact with the building's heritage character. To foster academic interaction, the new space has comfortable and creative studio spaces that encourage research students to engage, collaborate, write and present their theses.

We believe the most sustainable building is a building you do not have to build. In that context the 'new' H Block is a great success. The University rewrote their design guidelines based upon the H Block design outcomes. It was recognised in the 2012 AIA Awards with a Commendation for the interiors.





D Block: Creativity

Creating a setting that encourages group work and peer to peer critique is essential to the teaching of Architecture and Interior Design. With a theme of collaboration, dwp's concept for QUT's School of Design redevelopment redefines the entry undercroft into an informal gathering environment: 'The Forum'. This formerly unused space now functions as a group presentation area, event launch location and popular hangout space. Nearby, the signature entry experience is a gallery dedicated to a permanent built model of Brisbane City, which offers students an immersive understanding of their city's urban framework and scale.

New timber and warm coloured materials used throughout the refurbishment act in juxtaposition to complement the existing bare concrete finishes. Glazing is introduced to open sightlines and showcase student and academic interaction. The \$3 million refurbishment introduces options for students to remain on campus 24/7, working extended hours in an inspiring, safe setting.



Z Block: Connectivity

As QUT's Garden Point campus has evolved, an elevated walkway has been introduced that redefines major pedestrian circulation routes and building entry points. This includes Z block, which is dedicated to the Business Faculty, including the Schools of Economics & Finance, Management and Marketing.

In the \$1.5 million Z Block project, we created an internal street which accommodates student lounges, retail tenancies and access to lecture theatres and classrooms. This new street connects this building to C and S Blocks via the elevated walkway network. The entry point of the building is now redefined at level four.

The creation of a laptop lounge at this level creates a vibrant buzz, with plenty of opportunities for bump spaces, connectivity and social interaction in a dynamic, student-friendly atmosphere.



Auditorium Renewal: We Hear You

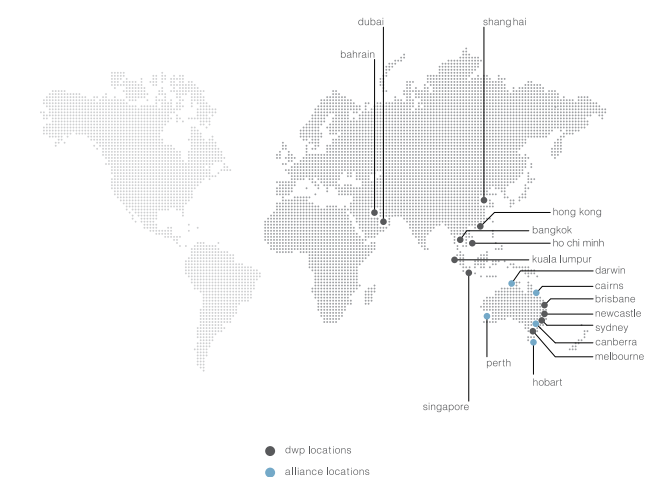
This 120-seat auditorium refurbishment at QUT's Kelvin Grove campus injects 21st century technology into a tired 1970s lecture theatre. dwp reconfigured the auditorium design to improve acoustic performance. Fitting acoustic panels to the rear of the theatre and integrating a complete new acoustic ceiling completed the acoustic overhaul.

The new wall linings are dynamically arranged and boldly charged with colour to enliven the space. New lighting includes LED aisle lighting and the entire system is fully integrated into the AV system, providing five lighting zones with dimming capability. Student voice microphones make possible the live streaming of lectures to other campuses and universities.

The auditorium transforms from a passive learning space into an active one through the introduction of pin boards and laminated panels. The space can now quickly shift into group work mode for breakout sessions and pin up presentations.

Access equity is improved with wheelchair friendly spaces provided at both the front and rear of the auditorium. dwp's design for this \$5 million refurbishment has set the benchmark for all new auditorium works at QUT.

We are 450 professionals who are defining a new world built on the insights of people who love the spaces we design. We are dwp - design worldwide partnership.



In Asia, Australia and the Middle East our clients are deeply engaged with their customers. We translate their aspirations into beautiful, culturally sensitive places. Practising architecture, interior design and masterplanning, we tailor global future thinking to locally specific needs.

Sustainability is our commitment to future generations. To protect our environment and our society we champion sustainable design, economic responsibility and social conscience. We use Building Information Modelling (BIM) to provide an immersive experience to our clients that facilitates decision making. Seamless coordination, community engagement and cost certainty are a few of the benefits.

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it’s actually about a strategy and
unlocking the potential that these
places have ’

Geoff Street
Managing Director QLD
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