

The Romaldo Giurgola Award for Public Architecture

Synergy
BVN

X marks the spot for Synergy, a new research facility for CSIRO's Black Mountain consolidation project.

The building is expressed in two parts: a laboratory wing with generous floor to floor heights and an x-shaped plan for workspaces. The vertically stacked program within each of these parts is connected via a ramp that circulates around a triangular and light-filled void in the X: a superb and dynamic space that also provides opportunities for more informal moments of exchange between researchers and performs as a chimney for the natural ventilation of the facility.

The fanning of the X plan fosters research clusters and maximises the extent of perimeter workspaces with direct views out to the Black Mountain landscape. Inside and out, the architecture draws upon the landscape for inspiration and as 'workplace enticement'. Colours extracted from this, especially the local scribbly gum's bark, create the palette applied to the exterior shading system. Comprising perforated anodised louvres in a variety of colours, it filters sunlight without interrupting views from the interior and gives the building a distinctive visage that is both delicate and striking.

Synergy is architecturally finessed. Its clear palette, vibrant light, high level of interior amenity and excellent ESD credentials (that are embedded in and exploited for architectural beauty) yields a workplace that seeks to restore the spirits and wellbeing of a revered organisation.



Photographer: John Gollings



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Award for Interior Architecture

Synergy BVN

The CSIRO's Synergy building has redefined scientific workplaces through an intense consultative process between the client and project team.

The establishment of a porous neighbourhood concept, through the clever placement of meeting rooms and central facilities around work clusters ultimately informed the x-plan and the architectural form of this important and indeed substantial new scientific facility.

The need for a contemplative workspace was fulfilled by purpose-designed workstations facilitating concentrated work. The building comprises two components, being workplace and laboratories. These are intrinsically linked, yet each with their own functional performance requirements and associated lighting, ventilation and servicing strategies. In an Australian first, the PC3 laboratory levels are linked through an internal interconnecting stair, further promoting collaborative scientific research.

A central atrium space, integral to an innovative natural ventilation system, provides a dramatic arrival experience connecting all levels of the building with its soaring height, stairwells and ramps.

Building services are expressed as functional counterpoints to a warm materials and colour palette. Daylight is diffused through suspended sunshade elements that appear porous from the work clusters within.

Synergy is a place of collaborative research and intellectual endeavour appropriately attuned to the natural environment through clever design that manages changing light intensity and the flow of cooling fresh air.



Photographer: John Gollings



Photographer: Dianna Snape

The Derek Wrigley Award for Sustainable Architecture

Synergy
BVN

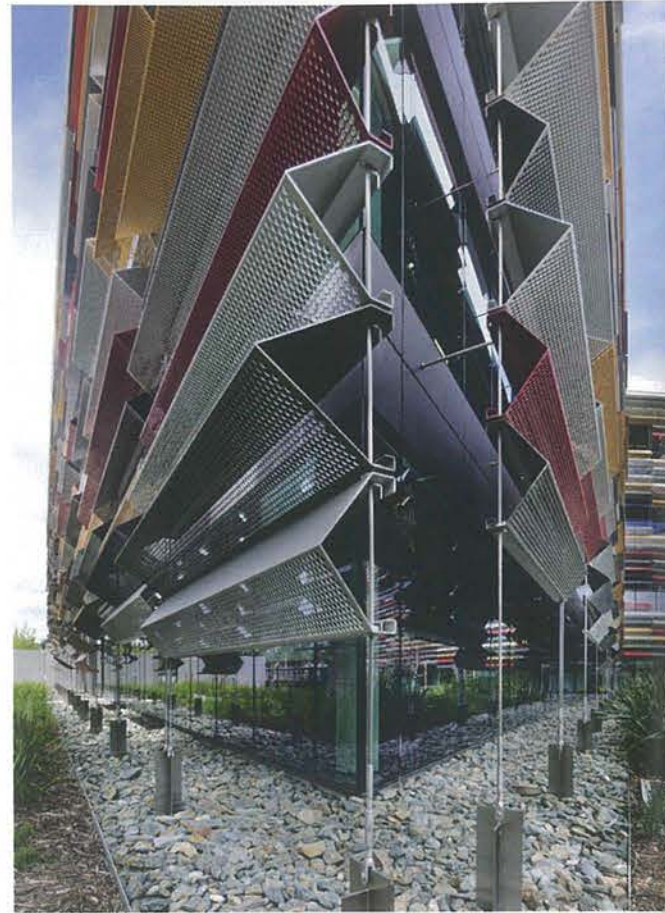
Synergy is a research and workplace facility for the CSIRO that has been designed to merge the workplace with its unique setting on the cusp of the Black Mountain bushland, and the city. What appears to be a decorative screen to the facade, is a meticulous transposition of the leaves, barks and colours of the Black Mountain flora, to provide the very contrasting daylight and sun control requirements between workplace and laboratories. The triangulated screen enables views out to the landscape and down to the ground plane, providing a real sense of connection to the Canberra bush.

Although for various highly concentrated scientific research, the workplace planning is open plan with meeting rooms and shared facilities located with the circulation atrium to enable a greater sense of community. The planning and inherent integration of sustainable initiatives engenders the transparent and collaborative future of the organisation.

Every opening to the facade is thoughtfully considered; whether to permit the workspace to be fully naturally ventilated; to direct views to Canberra icons; or encourage incidental encounter and collaboration. The sheer amount of natural light that is provided to the laboratory spaces, despite their strict environmental requirements, is incredibly refreshing and well executed.



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The Derek Wrigley Award for Sustainable Architecture

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