

-For Immediate Release-

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Woods Bagot scoops top Australian design Award

More akin to residential than institutional architecture, the Deakin University Lecture Theatre is an education space for the future

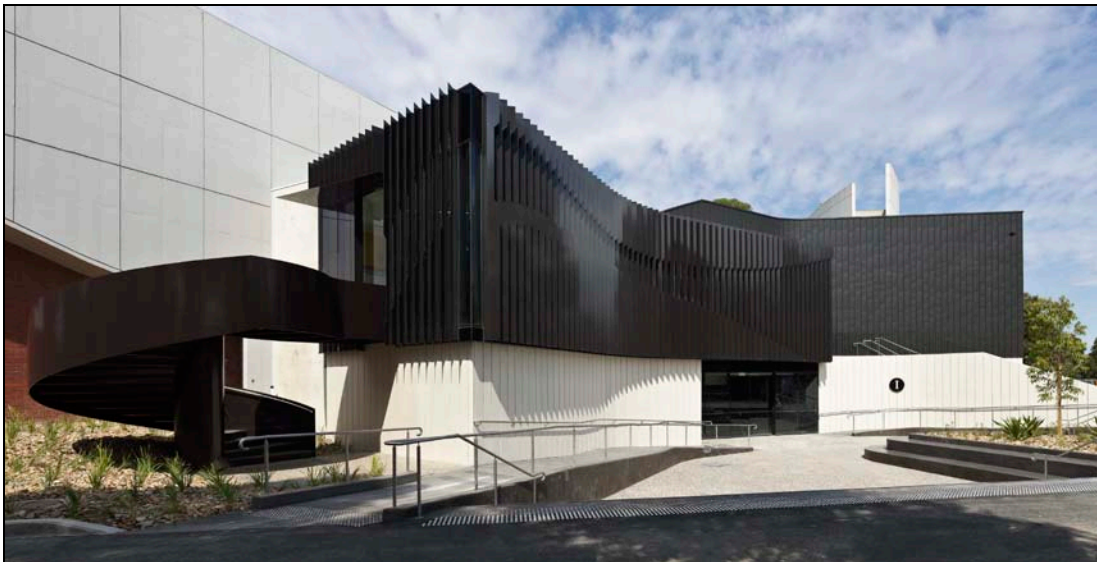
Announced at the annual Australian Institute of Architects (AIA) Awards, Woods Bagot were presented with the Architecture Award, Public Alterations and Additions for Deakin University's new Lecture Theatre.

"We're delighted to be taking home this award tonight, in partnership with Deakin University. Most notably, we're proud we have been able to provide the University with a space that speaks to future teaching and learning environments," said Sarah Ball, Principal, Woods Bagot.

Located at the University's Burwood campus, the new building boasts a 256 seat lecture theatre, foyer, two tutorial rooms, and student lounge and amenities. An extension to two existing lecture theatres and foyer, the new building now meets the future growth and timetabling requirements of the University.

"Identifying a lack of social gathering space within this central precinct of the campus, both internally and externally, drove the formal agenda of the architecture, said Bruno Mendes, Design Leader, Woods Bagot.

"Formally the building asserts its presence to the new sunken courtyard in a sinuous and fluid manner. Concave in plan the foyer is flanked by two sculptural stairs, one directed at the central spine by means of a sweeping curve and the other with a spiral steel stair. Reinforcing the formal language of the foyer are louvers shading the glass from the western sun but allowing a visual connection to this new courtyard," continued Bruno.



Deakin University Building I, Melbourne (image credit: Peter Bennetts)

Additionally, a key design feature are the seminar rooms that cater to the distracted student, who can visually wander past the 'haha' style landscaping and absorb the activity down the campus spine.

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“The collaborative and more informal study style of today’s students has been well catered for in this development with student lounge and amenities areas surrounding the more traditional lecture theatre,” said Graeme Dennehy, Deakin’s Chief Operating Officer.

“The quality and resolution of this project which is more akin to residential architecture than institutional architecture, owes most of its DNA to a strong and positive relationship between the Client, Architect and Builder (ADCO Constructions),” added Bruno.

Recently completed for the commencement of the Australian academic year, the lecture theatre is located within the central precinct of Deakin University's Melbourne Campus in the suburb of Burwood.

Woods Bagot has also recently been appointed to conduct a ‘Geelong Accommodation Relocation Strategy’ (GARS) at the Geelong Waterfront Campus and the Geelong Campus at Waurn Ponds – all form part of Deakin University’s Geelong operations.

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About Woods Bagot

One of the world's leading architectural practices, Woods Bagot has a global team of more than 700 working across North America, Europe, Asia, Australia and the Middle East. The firm's unique "One Global Studio" philosophy drives unprecedented knowledge sharing and true collaboration across time zones, producing innovative, inspired and functional design solutions for our clients. Underpinning Woods Bagot's knowledge culture is PUBLIC, our propriety research brand, created in collaboration with leading thinkers and academics.

The firm's diverse portfolio of high-profile projects includes: Adelaide Convention Centre, City Central Precinct (Adelaide), Sydney University’s Abercrombie Precinct, University of Technology’s Student Spaces, Haymarket Campus (Sydney), Melbourne Centre for Nanofabrication, Hilton South Wharf (Melbourne), Eccleston Square Hotel (London), St Regis Beach Resort (Abu Dhabi), and Shijiazhuang Exhibition and Convention Centre (China).

About the Awards

The AIA is a national body consisting of almost 10,000 members across Australia and overseas.

Held annually, the Awards are the most prestigious in the design and construction industry, and have had a significant influence on trends in architectural design.

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