

Parramatta

First look at winning design for Parramatta Square's \$50m space-age library

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👤 Kylie Adoranti Parramatta Advertiser



Winning design for Parramatta Square cultural centre

PARRAMATTA will fly into the future with a cutting-edge design for its new civic and community centre.

The ultra-modern centre will be in the middle of the [Parramatta Square development](#) worth \$2 billion.

A design excellence jury voted unanimously to award the international design competition to a consortium of French firm Manuelle Gautrand Architecture and Australian firms DesignInc and Lacoste + Stevenson.

The building will aim to achieve a five-star green rating and has a wave-shaped facade of crystalline blocks.



The winning design for Parramatta Square civic and community centre. Pictures: Parramatta Council.

A LED screen will be built into the lower levels of the southern facade for multimedia projections, which will be able to display images such as public art and event programs.

The upper levels of the southern facade will also be able to be used for projections of public art.

Councillor Jean Pierre Abood described the glass building as “a starship enterprise”.

“When I first saw it, I thought, ‘Oh my God, what the?’ I knew it would be a building that would attract people to the city,” he said.

“It still has its heritage aspect with town hall at the front. It’s a futuristic, modern building. It has a wow factor.”



The design extends above the historic Town Hall.

The civic and community centre will cost around \$50 million to construct and will include a state-of-the-art library, council chambers, council offices, council services and meeting rooms for the public to lease out. Lord Mayor Paul Garrard said this would be a building of the 21st century.

"It's an iconic design. This building will be to Parramatta what the Opera House is to Sydney," he said.

"Nothing in Parramatta has been designed like it.

"The transparency of the glass facade makes the building inviting and open for the community to explore."



Councillor Steven Issa echoed the Lord Mayor's comments.

"It's brilliant and it speaks to the future of Parramatta as the forefront of change. It is definitely not conservative — it is out there," Cr Issa said.

"It will be the hero of Parramatta Square."

But not everyone is impressed with the non-traditional look of the building.



The design is by a consortium of French firm Manuelle Gautrand Architecture and Australian firms DesignInc and Lacoste + Stevenson.

Councillor John Chedid said the building looked too modern.

"It lacks iconic landmark design. I don't believe the consultants really understand our history. Our civic building is meant to represent the people of Parramatta," he said.

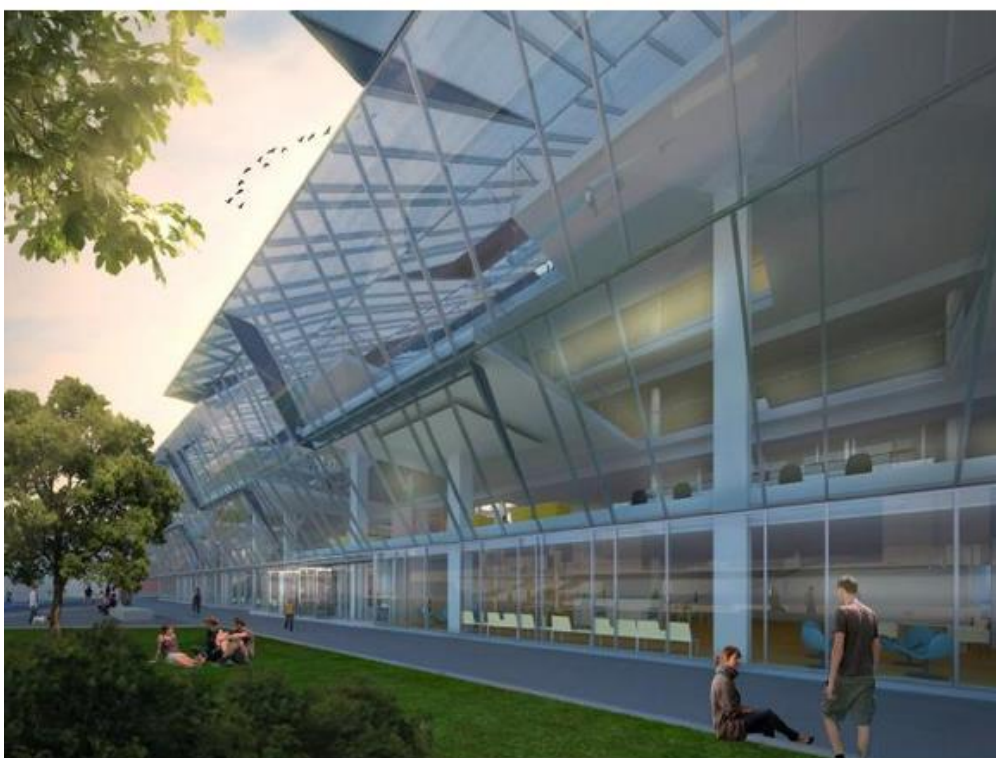
Parramatta councillors endorsed the winning design at a council meeting on Tuesday evening.



Not everyone is impressed with the non-traditional look of the building. Picture: Supplied

The concept designs will undergo detailed analysis before a development application is lodged, which is expected to be in by the end of this year.

The designs will be placed on public exhibition.



Lien internet : <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/parramatta/winning-design-for-parramattas-civic-and-community-centre-likened-to--starship-enterprise/news-story/bc7cd97e8144f56c2ce6354a30ded470>