



## 21st century design chosen for Parramatta Square's iconic civic building

30 Mar 2016



A cutting-edge glass construction featuring a wave-shaped façade of crystalline blocks has been selected as the winning design for Parramatta Square's landmark civic and community building.



The design has been endorsed by Parramatta City Council after a 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 eye-catching design encapsulates and extends above the historic Town Hall with a cantilevered structure providing a platform for the Council Chambers.

Core to the building design is a stack of transparent glass that gradually rises to the north-east with a large LED screen for public art projections.

The \$50 million project will cover six-storeys with a Gross Floor Area (GFA) of approximately 8000sq m.

Lord Mayor of Parramatta Cr Paul Garrard congratulated Manuelle Gautrand Architecture, DesignInc and Lacoste + Stevenson on producing a spectacular winning design.

"The jury was tasked with selecting an iconic design and they have certainly fulfilled that brief. The architects have produced a contemporary and thought-provoking design that is sure to become a must-see destination for visitors to Parramatta," Cr Garrard said.

"This design truly cements Parramatta Square as the civic heart of our City. The transparency of the glass façade makes the building inviting and open for the community to explore the library of the future, public roof garden, customer contact centre, visitor experience centre, community meeting rooms and technology hub."

"All this is within a building that is designed to achieve at least a 5- Star Green Star rating."

Built into the entire lower levels of the southern façade will be a LED screen for multimedia projections, which will be able to display images such as public art and event programs.

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

"This will be a building that defines Parramatta as a Smart City. The interactive nature of the building and library of the future will be something that locals and visitors will be able to enjoy for decades to come. It has also been cleverly designed to pay respect to heritage and merge together the past, present and future," Cr Garrard said.

David Stevenson from Lacoste + Stevenson said the design team worked hard to ensure that public art was an essential component of the design.

"The design team's vision for public art at 5 Parramatta Square was to make Council's civic facilities a canvas for artistic expression in a way we haven't seen before in a public building in Australia," Mr Stevenson said.

"The building creates the opportunity to be transformed into an interactive public art display through shading devices that also serve as projection screens. This is truly a building for the 21st century."

The design jury was made up of NSW Government Architect Office Director of Design Excellence Olivia Hyde, National Architects Principal Bob Nation, Parramatta City Architect Kim Crestani and Council's Director of Property and Significant Assets Barry Mann.

In announcing its decision the jury said: "The winning scheme is an exemplary architectural masterpiece that delivers a 21<sup>st</sup> century solution within Parramatta City Council's modern smart-city metropolis."

The concept designs will undergo detailed analysis before a Development Application (DA) is lodged, which is expected to be by the end of 2016. The designs will be placed on public exhibition as part of the DA process.

#### **About the design consortium:**

Paris-based Manuelle Gautrand Architecture's architecture embraces an endless variety of forms and colours, using the most contemporary methods of planning in a variety of areas ranging from cultural facilities to residential, commercial and office buildings.

Among the firm's recent completed projects are the "Origami" office building on Friedland Avenue in Paris and La Gaité Lyrique, an old Parisian theatre transformed into a centre for contemporary and digital arts and music.

DesignInc is a multi award-winning firm that champions an integrated approach to sustainable architecture, interior and urban design, with a focus on the creation of quality environments that reconcile natural, social, urban and economic forces. Examples of their work include Royal Adelaide Hospital, the CTI and Metro Residences in Chatswood and City of Melbourne's Council House 2.

Lacoste + Stevenson has a broad range of experience in public buildings, commercial spaces, urban design. The firm has developed a reputation for innovative and responsive solutions to both public and private projects. Their work has won domestic and international

praise and awards. Projects include the refurbishment of Customs House in Sydney and the extension of the Overseas Archive Centre in France known as the Treasure Chest.







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