

## Iconic glass design chosen for landmark civic centre building

By Kylie Stevens

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Images of the Parramatta Civic Centre design. Pictures: Parramatta City Council.

A cutting edge glass construction chosen as the winning design for Parramatta Square's civic building has received the green light.

It was adopted by councillors on Tuesday night following the jury's unanimous decision to award the design competition to a consortium of French firm Manuelle Gautrand Architecture and Australian firms DesignInc and Lacoste + Stevenson.

"This will be what the Opera House was to Sydney when it was first built," lord mayor Paul Garrard said.



A fly over graphic of the design chosen for the Parramatta Square civic building.

Cr Steven Issa aded:

"If we want to position ourselves as a smart city, we need to build Australia's next great building. This is it. It's a facility not only for the council but also one the community can use."

The \$50 million six-storey building will encapsulate and extend above Parramatta Town Hall.

Core to the design is a stack of transparent glass with a large LED screen for public art projections.

It will include the library, public roof garden, the council customer contact centre, a visitor experience centre, community meeting rooms and technology hub.

"The winning scheme is an exemplary architectural masterpiece that delivers a 21<sup>st</sup> century solution within Parramatta Council's modern smart-city metropolis," the jury stated.



A striking glass design, with jutting edges has been chosen by council for the Parramatta Square civic building. Picture: Parramatta City Council.

Councillors were impressed with the design but there were calls to defer the decision to get feedback.

"We're making a decision that will be there for the next 100 years," Cr John Chedid told the chamber.

"I've travelled to a few countries and seen some of the best and worst designed buildings in the world. Letting the community have their say would make me feel more comfortable."

Cr Julia Finn agreed.

"We should be engaged in more community consultation. This will be their building."

The amendment to defer the decision was lost.

"The design is more modern than what I would have liked," Cr Glenn Elmore said.

"But it's now time to make a decision and support the jury's selection."

The design will undergo detailed analysis before a development application is lodged by the end of the year.

**Lien internet :** <http://www.parramattasun.com.au/story/3820980/gallery-and-video-iconic-glass-design-chosen-for-landmark-civic-centre-building/>