

Manuelle Gautrand-headed group wins Parramatta project

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SAVE



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The winning design for Parramatta Square cultural centre by the consortium of French firm Manuelle Gautrand Architecture and Australian firms DesignInc and Lacoste + Stevenson.

Images

The heart of the \$2 billion Parramatta Square development is taking shape, with a cutting-edge glass construction featuring a wave-shaped facade comprised of crystalline blocks selected as the winning design for the project's landmark civic and community building.

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

Paris-based Manuelle Gautrand Architecture's recently 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.

The company's eye-catching design for the western Sydney centre encapsulates and extends above Parramatta's 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 northeast with a large LED screen for public art projections.

The \$50 million project will cover six storeys with a gross floor area of about 8000 square metres.

Parramatta Lord Mayor Paul Garrard said the architects had produced a contemporary and thought-provoking design that sought to achieve at least a 5-star Green Star rating.

Built into the entire lower levels of the southern facade will be an LED screen for multimedia projections of images featuring public art and event programs.