

FUTURE PROJECTS 2016

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**Civic and Community Building - Parramatta Square District, Parramatta, Australia
MANUELLE GAUTRAND ARCHITECTURE**

PROGRAM:
The building will accommodate various spaces as a library, a Smart City Command Center, Community Meeting rooms, a community technology Hub, an Innovation space, a visitor experience center, Council chambers, Council customer services, Councilor Offices, and common facilities.

ARCHITECT:
MANUELLE GAUTRAND ARCHITECTURE (Paris)
associated with:
LACOSTE + STEVENSON (Sydney)
DESIGNINC (Sydney)

CLIENT:
CITY OF PARRAMATTA

KEY NUMBERS:
Total floor space: 12.000 sqm, Work cost: 26 M€ vat excl.

DATES:
- Competition: 2016, Studies: 2016 – 2017,
Construction work: 2018-2019,

towards the esplanade on one side, giving a long, slender southern facade. To the north, it stretches towards the sky, finishing at the north-east corner in a fin, an urban marker, so thin that the sun's rays can pass right through it.

The building takes its shape from a series of interlocking crystalline volumes, stacked from the bottom up and slightly offset between the horizontal and vertical grids. This play of successive offsetting creates the opportunity for regular views out to the side of the building, scattered with terraces. The higher you climb the more the rooms become slender and intimate and the more the sun coming from the north seems to pass through the building, giving it a progressive transparency.

With the intention of integrating the existing town hall into the new project, the new building also stretches to the west over the roofline of the town hall, crowning it with a crystalline architecture and creating spaces in close proximity to its municipal functions for new activities for Parramatta's elected officials and community. This long section projecting over the roof is where the officials' offices and meeting rooms are located.

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The city of Parramatta stipulated: “a building that defines Parramatta as a Smart City, which can deliver a 21st-century solution within Parramatta City Council’s modern smart-city metropolis.”

In response, we developed an expressive design for this site adjacent to the historic town hall, one that would communicate and give a presence to the various activities defined by the brief: a library, exhibitions, a community technology hub, the ‘Smart City control centre’, spaces for innovation, a restaurant, and offices for city officials.

The city’s main central esplanade runs alongside the site and the town hall. Urban planning guidelines require that the esplanade should not be significantly shaded at any time of year, so we worked at sculpting the building’s volume to allow for the full daily path of the sun. The final volume gives the impression of literally bending to the sun’s passage across the sky, resulting in a vast sloping plane that curves down

The library, at the heart of the city’s public services, occupies space on every floor, and is showcased in the windows overlooking the esplanade. It spills over into the building’s other spaces too, with reading rooms scattered here and there, multimedia spaces and communal lounges. The library provides the thread through the whole project, leading the building’s users from experience to experience, from the reception and exhibition area – huge spaces for meeting and sharing ideas – towards the spaces that become progressively more private for scholarly, innovative, and even experimental uses.

A mix of interactive projections and LED lighting will animate and illuminate this great inclined ‘sail’, its curve faceted under the arc of the sun’s path. The entire facade becomes a space for sharing with the city’s inhabitants.

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