Project PHIVE CIVIC CENTER
Parramatta Architecture Manuelle Gautrand Architecture; Designinc; Lacoste & Stevenson
Address 5 Paramatta Square, Parramatta NSW 2150, Australia
Client Parramatta City Council
Completion 2023
Size 15,000 m²
Type of library Public, with Multimedia and Manuscripts
Reading seats 400
This project is a public and cultural facility featuring community and exhibition spaces as well as the City of Parramatta’s Council Chamber. It facilitates new Civic Archie, known as the sun, to allow the sun to shine on the square all year round. The roof curves slightly towards the top of the new Civic space, with colors moving from dark to light. The envelope is a highly sustainable skin that filters light and views, creating a poetic atmosphere for the exterior and interior of the project. Inside this chiseled volume, a cascade of levels places the square in a kind of giant amphitheater. The higher one climbs, the more narrow and intimate the spaces become.
PHIVE CIVIC CENTER

d

Eaves and seating

e
Roof and glass front of the building

f
Bookshelves and reading places
Libraries are sites of learning, research and discovery, but also for interaction and exchange. The institution as such is in the midst of a remarkable image shift from an introverted knowledge repository to a globally networked information provider and communication mediator. The demands on this cornerstone of modern civilization have changed enormously, as libraries now have to meet the latest digital demands involving new forms of media and the methods in which they are consumed.

The architectural expression of this expanded and constantly evolving profile of requirements makes library construction very multi-layered and complex. Yet, this is also precisely a source of enormous potential for bold designs and ingenious aesthetic concepts. Whether it is a new building, a conversion, or an extension, this volume shows the diversity of the building task with its interplay of state-of-the-art technology and the cultural demands of our age.