



South Melbourne Life Saving Club



Application No.	0002664
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Project Category	4. Non-residential development;7. Sustainability;8. Heritage
Project name	South Melbourne Life Saving Club
Org name	Jackson Clements Burrows
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Date of Completion	Aug/2019
Project Street Address	Beaconsfield Parade
Project Suburb	South Melbourne
Project Post Code	3205
Client name	City of Port Phillip
Project Cost	6800000
Site Area (m2)	730
Org Street Address	1 Harwood Place
Org Suburb	Melbourne
Org Post Code	3000
Org Website	http://jcba.com.au/



Organization overview

Established in 1998 by Tim Jackson, Jon Clements and Graham Burrows, JCB is a design-led architectural practice of over 60 design professionals united by a shared commitment to the delivery of innovative design solutions. We offer a design approach that is site sensitive, engaged with local climatic conditions and adaptive to contextual opportunities.

Brief description

The new single-level South Melbourne Life Saving Club sits sensitively on the foreshore, with its low flat roof emphasising the horizon line and creating a new public sheltered outdoor deck area. Internally, the space provides new club facilities, a community multipurpose room, public toilets and kiosk.

Response to key selection criteria

The new South Melbourne Life Saving Club responds to the linear nature of the foreshore that stretches from St. Kilda to Port Melbourne. Both Beaconsfield Parade and the beach promenade are primarily concerned with linear north/south movement, which prompted the built form to capture and celebrate this dynamic flow and horizon line beyond. Accentuating the latent linear qualities of the site, also meant that the low-profile roof minimises interruption to local residential view lines. The previous club on site was a solid brick, two-storey structure, which brought with it challenges the new building looked to overcome. As this is a public building, we wanted it to feel open and accessible to the community. The transparent multi-purpose space to its south, as well as the covered, open deck encourages views to the bay, and offers an opportunity to pause and engage with the beach, the club and any community functions happening within. The observation room and skylights playfully illuminate interiors and flick up out of the roof, mimicking sails and boating activities on the bay. By resting the building on the edge of the bluestone wall, the building also opens and creates a public space on Beaconsfield Parade, aiding its interaction with the streetscape and continuing the generous width of the public promenade. The siting of the previous building restricted the public foreshore path, and resulted in conflicts between bikes and pedestrians. This was addressed by perching the building on the edge of the bluestone sea wall, which re-instated the full width forecourt to allow separate pedestrian and cycle paths, as well as landscaped and seating opportunities. This new configuration promotes a bottle-neck-free thoroughfare, where pedestrians and cyclists can both move together easily and safely. The new building also encourages the public to inhabit the spaces that surround it, with seating terraces to the beach and seating pods to the forecourt, making for many perfect places to sit and enjoy the surroundings. Pedestrian levels and access paths have been priorities, and were maintained throughout the site to maximise visual and physical ease of access, including disabled ramps to the beach. The proposal integrates a number of passive and active measures to achieve multiple sustainable outcomes. The low roof line creates deep shaded eaves to keep direct sunlight off the glass for much of the day. Cross flow ventilation is encouraged through the narrow plan form and vented louvered windows in the popup skylights. The project achieved Five



Star Green Star accreditation - a council ambition and requirement. Beyond this, further sustainable initiatives have been implemented, including a 36 kilowatt solar photo voltaic system designed to offset all greenhouse emissions on an annual basis. Best practice for urban storm water quality was also applied, with the use of 48,000 litres of storm water tank storage. Live electronic display screens calculate and display the building's overall water and energy savings achieved by the PV solar array and stormwater systems. The club building also features an allocation of bike storage, as well as a live electronic screen to display local public transport information and timetables. There was a reuse of materials, including bluestone retaining walls, and recycled aggregate to precast panels. Low VOC coating systems were used throughout. The site had previously housed the historic Stubbs Baths, and, therefore, heritage assessment and monitoring was conducted during and prior to the work to avoid possible damage to any remnants of this structure existing within the site. When the sea wall was originally built, much of the bluestone used was recycled from the Melbourne Goal. With this in mind, when we commenced dismantling the wall onsite, all the bluestone blocks were assessed and inspected by a heritage consultant, with a significant percentage these re-used in the new sea walls, as well as the building's base wall that faces the beach. An extensive consultation process with the local community, residents, and lifesaving club was prioritised and carried out in order to understand all the breadth of stakeholder requirements; while also achieving a building that reflects best practice in lifesaving club facilities. Throughout the duration of the project there was a highly coordinated and integrated process between all consultants, the council, the Club, and the main contractor, which enabled the built outcome to align with the original design intent to a high standard. The new SMLSC gives opportunities for people to pause and enjoy the natural environment. The public facility has been designed to encourage and celebrate activities and community events of the club, through its use of transparent multi-purpose spaces and terraced outdoor seating. Appreciating the location as a popular recreation destination the generous terraced decks spill from the verandah down to the beach level, providing the club and public ample opportunities to inhabit and enjoy the beachside environment. The single-level building sits sensitively on the foreshore, with its low flat roof emphasising the horizon line, and creating a new public sheltered outdoor deck area. Pop-up roof lights of varying sizes playfully maximise internal volume and light, while doubling up to conceal roof services and plant equipment. The largest of these pop-ups serves as the club's observation room overlooking the beach. The pop-ups playfully reference boating activity on the bay. Internally the pop-ups are coloured, red, yellow and pink, like faded beach towels and sunburn. These colours evoke happy memories of bygone summers, not least of all swimming between the flags! The extended roof form makes a new public verandah adjacent to the multipurpose space. The public are invited in to enjoy the beach, take shelter from the sun and observe club activities happening within (eg. CPR training). Gentle terraces offer the club and public viewing opportunities and a high level of passive and active engagement with the foreshore.



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