ARCHITECTURAL SYMBOLISM

The design is driven by functional performance as well as the projects pivotal role in the campus and city. The facility is a unified concept whose exterior 'skin' provides for differing internal functions via three cladding types – 'solid cladding', 'veiled glazing' and 'full glazing' to both reveal and protect interior activity. This strategy allows a coherent suite of details to unify the project while having priority over applied decoration.

The facility provides the symbolism of the 'recreation machine' and the 'connector of wider activities.' Sculpting the three-dimensional form is vital to this. While the plan is shaped to support student desire lines, the exterior elevation of the facility also inflects at the north to acknowledge the Kate Edger Building. In doing so, it creates a significant public realm invitation to the campus at this vital nexus. The result is a building which is formed with simple, bold strokes and rendered in materials that reflect both its contemporary nature and its unique status within the campus. The Recreation Centre is free to be energetic and sculpturally powerful, contemporary and dynamically responsive by day and night.

The design also recognises that its success requires a coherent resolution of architecture and structural solutions. Structure is therefore an integral and expressive part of the design, reinforcing the dynamic exterior form while and emphasising primary external spaces and movements through the Sector.
The following eight strategies illustrate the drivers of the design proposal. They are intended to both optimally satisfy the functional brief and support the University’s Master Plan objectives. These strategies are focussed on providing a facility which is both highly accessible and engaged in daily student life. Together, these central design strategies result in a facility which will not only excel as a Recreation and Wellness Centre but also as a catalyst for Sector 300 and campus connectivity and cohesion.

- **Central Connectivity**
  - A centralised atrium, oriented East/West, provides a clear connection between Symonds Street and Princes Street. This connection also allows all of the activities within the building to be clearly accessible and visible from principal points of contact. Connecting stairs and lifts are also located centrally within the plan.
  - Public access through the facility is provided without clashing with the reception or secure circulation.

- **Circulation and Public Access**
  - The Recreation Centre is shaped in plan and stacked in section to provide a generous public plaza and an undercover connection from Symonds Street to the Princes Street plaza level. A public realm connection is also provided adjacent to the Science Centre so that public access around the new facility can be provided at all times.
  - The facility acknowledges the importance of all connections across Symonds Street, both at grade and through the Symonds Street underpass. By providing direct public access through the facility (between Symonds and Princes Streets), students are invited to connect their daily lives on campus with recreation and wellness. However, public realm and internal sector 300 interactions are also reinforced through a clear hierarchy of spaces.
  - The plan form of the new facility directly responds to the axis of the Kate Edger atrium, providing a fluid connection into the heart of sector 300.

- **Optimised Stacking**
  - Displacing the Sports Halls vertically provides separate gathering spaces for both court zones. This allows the recreation courts to function independently when the show court is used. Placing the show court lower in the stack minimises vertical movements for access and egress. Both court spaces are positioned at the top of the stack, acknowledging their long span structural demands and relatively closed facades relative to the public realm. The more active elements of the scheme are placed lower in the stack to allow greatest expression of the variety of activities available within the complex.
  - External turf area over the show court space minimises impacts on the Science Centre (the roof top turf is secured with fine mesh which is highly transparent by both day and night).

- **Clear Address**
  - The space framed by the Kate Edger Building and the new Recreation Centre is regarded as the primary ‘address’ for the new facility and this address is reinforced and strongly connected at both street and B1 (underpass) levels.
  - This strategy effectively provides two addresses - one at grade and one at the B1 level.
OPERATION AND USER EXPERIENCE

The new Recreation Centre provides a welcoming connection at both Symonds Street and the Princess Street Plaza levels. The Symonds Street edge provides an open ‘public’ space that conducts users through the building without passing through control points. This gesture is reinforced by the wide public stair which unifies exterior and interior movements. The theatre of this interior transition provides an opportunity for presentations and performances within the public lobby – a space that provides for both necessary circulation and casual student use.

RECEPTION AND VISUAL CONNECTIONS

The reception and access control points are located to allow easy visibility while also providing an overview of the pool area as well as a clear connection to the Kate Edger Building. Circulation to the change rooms is very direct from the reception/control point.

This location allows significant space within the facility to be devoted to free access + occupation by students.

VERTICAL CIRCULATION

Vertical circulation by both lifts and stairs is directly expressed, providing for clear navigation of the entire complex.

FULL FACILITY INTEGRATION

By connecting the B1 level of the new facility to the equivalent level of the Kate Edger Building, the two facilities can be fully integrated.

This strategy goes beyond ‘co-location’ and provides a direct fluid connection between these two interdependent facilities.
SITE PLAN

SECTOR 300

LEGEND

01 PRINCESS ST PLAZA
02 RECREATION + WELLNESS CENTRE
03 SYMONDS STREET UNDERPASS
04 ALFRED PARK
05 STUDENT QUAD

KEY

MAJOR ENTRY
SERVICE ENTRY
PEDESTRIAN PATH

SCALE 1:1000 @ A3

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT FOOTPRINT
NEW ENTRANCE LOBBY

PRINCES ST
SYMonds ST
FULL INTEGRATION WITH KATE EDGER
STUDENT SPACE INTEGRATED TO PROVIDE BETTER UTILISATION OF THE SYMONDS STREET UNDERPASS
VISUAL CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN STUDENT SPACE AND RECREATION SPACE
DIRECT CONNECTION BY STAIR + LIFT TO THE RECREATION CENTRE LOBBY
SPATIAL DIAGRAMS

LEVEL 0

→ CENTRE BUILDING EDGE SHAPED TO ACKNOWLEDGE KATE EDGER AND CREATE PUBLIC PLAZA

→ PUBLIC LOBBY AND EXTERNAL STAIR UNITED TO PROVIDE VISIBLE ACCESS TO PRINCESS STREET LEVEL

→ VOID + STAIR WITHIN CENTRE LOBBY PROVIDES VISUAL CONNECTIVITY TO B1 LEVEL BELOW

→ RECEPTION ZONING ALLOWS OVERSIGHT OF LOBBY, DIRECT ACCESS TO KATE EDGER, OVERSIGHT OF CHANGE ACCESS AND VIEWS OVER SWIMMING POOL BELOW

→ CENTRE SPINE PROVIDES CONNECTION BETWEEN LEVELS

→ GROUND FLOOR LEVEL ACCESS TO CHANGE ROOMS + GROUP FITNESS

LEGEND

PEDESTRIAN ENTRY / PATH
BASEMENT SERVICING

VERTICAL CIRCULATION
SERVICING
→ ROOF OF DIVE POOL UTILISED TO ACCOMMODATE REQUIRED PERFORMANCE HEIGHTS (REDUCING EXCAVATION DEPTHS + PROVIDING VISION ACCESS TO POOL BELOW)

→ CENTRE RESPONDS TO AXIS SET UP BY KATE EDGER ATRIUM

→ DIRECT ACCESS FROM PRINCESS STREET PLAZA TO SYMONDS STREET VIA INTERNAL 'THEATRE' STAIR WHICH CONTINUES EXTERNALLY

LEGEND

**→ PEDESTRIAN ENTRY / PATH**

**→ BASEMENT SERVICING**

**→ VERTICAL CIRCULATION**

**→ SERVICING**
SPATIAL DIAGRAMS

LEVEL 02

- SPORTS HALL 1 (HOUSING SHOW COURT) LOCATED LOWER IN STACK TO REDUCE TRAVEL DISTANCE
- BREAKOUT SPACES AND PUBLIC TOILETS LOCATED ADJACENT TO SHOW COURT
- ADJACENT GYM SPACES CAN BE UTILISED TO SUPPORT BREAKOUT IN EVENT MODES
- DISPLACING SPORTS HALLS 1+2 ALLOWS SHOW COURT TO OPERATE WITHOUT DISRUPTING SPORTS HALL 2
SPATIAL DIAGRAMS

LEVEL 03

- Running track provides access to fixed bleacher seating co-located with Sports Hall 2
- Corners of court boxes ‘cut-away’ to provide direct views to city/harbour + Albert Park

LEGEND

- Pedestrian entry / path
- Basement servicing
- Vertical circulation
- Servicing
SPATIAL DIAGRAMS

ROOF LEVEL

- Skylights deliver light to vertical circulation spine.
- External turf areas have minimal enclosure to reduce lighting compromises to science tower.

Legend:
- Pedestrian entry/path
- Basement servicing
- Vertical circulation
- Servicing

Ball netting not shown for clarity.

Skylights to sports halls.

Skylights to circulation/foysers below.

EXTERNAL TURF - FOOTBALL COURTS

PRINCES ST
SYMONDS ST
ALFRED ST

→ Skylights deliver light to vertical circulation spine

→ External turf areas have minimal enclosure to reduce lighting compromises to science tower

LEGEND

PEDESTRIAN ENTRY / PATH
BASEMENT SERVICING

VERTICAL CIRCULATION
SERVICING
SECTIONS

SECTIONAL PERSPECTIVE C-C LOOKING WEST
FLOOR PLAN - LEVEL B2

LEGEND
01 SERVICE HOIST
02 POOL PLANT
03 STORAGE

KEY
PUBLIC AREAS
STUDIOS / GYM / SPORTS
AQUATIC HALL
LIFTS
STAIRS / CORE
SERVICE / STORAGE / MEP
CHANGE AREAS
TURF
BACK OF HOUSE
MAJOR ENTRY
SERVICE ENTRY
PEDESTRIAN PATH
SERVICE PATH

SCALE 1:400 @ A3

LOAD IN FROM L-00
EGRESS STAIR TO ABOVE
FRESH AIR INTAKE

EXTENT OF EXISTING SQUASH COURTS AT LEVEL ABOVE
FLOOR PLAN LEVEL 1 - PRINCES STREET

LEGEND

- ENTRANCE
- F+B KIOSK / SEATING
- SKYLIGHT TO POOL BELOW
- GYM AREA
- PUBLIC PLAZA

KEY

- PUBLIC AREAS
- STUDIOS / GYM / SPORTS
- AQUATIC HALL
- LIFTS
- STAIRS / CORE
- SERVICE / STORAGE / MEP
- CHANGE AREAS
- TURF
- BACK OF HOUSE
- MAJOR ENTRY
- SERVICE ENTRY
- PEDESTRIAN PATH
- SERVICE PATH
- FUTURE BUILDING SITE

SCALE 1:400 @ A3
FLOOR PLAN - LEVEL 2 - SHOW COURT MODE

LEGEND
01 SPORTS HALL 1 - EVENT MODE
02 FOYERS / EVENT SPACE
03 KITCHEN
04 GYM / STUDIO AREAS
05 TOILETS

KEY
PUBLIC AREAS
STUDIOS / GYM / SPORTS
AQUATIC HALL
LIFTS
STAIRS / CORE
SERVICE / STORAGE / MEP
CHANGE AREAS
TURF
BACK OF HOUSE
MAJOR ENTRY
SERVICE ENTRY
PEDESTRIAN PATH
SERVICE PATH
FUTURE BUILDING SITE

SCALE 1:400 @ A3
ELEVATIONS

A - SYMONDS STREET ELEVATION (LOOKING WEST)

B - PRINCES STREET ELEVATION (LOOKING EAST)