

BRAND NEW FACILITIES FOR A BRIGHT NEW FUTURE

DEVELOPER: Australian Catholic University
CONSTRUCTION: BESIX Watpac
PROJECT MANAGERS: Aurecon
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS: ARUP
ARCHITECTS: Lyons Architects
CONSTRUCTON VALUE: \$226million

The Saint Teresa of Kolkata Building at the Australian Catholic University is a state-of-the-art, 18,344m² teaching and learning space which includes a combination of centralised teaching facilities and informal learning spaces, upgraded student amenities, green spaces, a rooftop multi-sports court, and the construction of three additional levels over the heritage-listed Mary Glowrey Building.

Australian Catholic University (ACU) is developing the Melbourne Campus (St Patricks) in Fitzroy to accommodate student and staff growth over the next 10 years and to consolidate teaching spaces and improve the learning environment for students.

The Saint Teresa of Kolkata Building, is a state-of-the-art, 13-storey tower that provides a combination of centralised teaching facilities and informal learning spaces, a rooftop multi-sport court, and elevated garden with views of the city. The new space also has staff, student and postgraduate hubs, car and bicycle parking, kitchen and lounge areas, a dynamic mix of study areas and conference facilities.

Works also included refurbishing and constructing three additional levels over the heritage-listed Mary Glowrey Building.

ACU's Victorian State Development Manager John Kouris said the Saint Teresa of Kolkata Building was a major investment for the university which would blend state of art architecture and state of art sustainability. "It is a very exciting project that will bring together our students, our staff and our communities to enhance their engagement and connectedness," he said.

BESIX Watpac won the design and construction contract for The Saint Teresa of Kolkata Building, and work commenced in 2018.

Construction and fitout programs were carried out while the building was still in operation, with provisions made to account for the site's location abutting four busy city streets that could not be closed down.

BESIX Watpac CEO Mark Baker said, "Delivering this remarkable project in a live environment and on a constrained site

presented a variety of logistical challenges which were carefully managed through meticulous methodology planning."

"The construction of the 7-level deep basement adjacent to an existing building and bordering Victoria Parade and Napier Street meant it was not possible to put excavators on the road," said Senior Project Manager, Michael Cooke. "So we built a working platform within the basement for trucks to sit on."

The overbuild of the existing, heritage listed and operational Mary Glowrey building was a highlight of the project from a construction perspective. "We constructed three additional levels over the existing 6-stories, which involved erecting structural steel totally supported from the ground level over the existing building," explained Michael.

The building footprint transitions at Level 4 and Level 6, with teaching and learning spaces on Levels 1-5, and admin, office and seminar spaces on Levels 8-11.

The large externally landscaped terrace on Level 6 features real grass, with a range of external landscaping and coordinating internal landscaping in offices and terraces which includes 2,000 live plants. Level 8 includes a full-sized multi-sports court for basketball, netball and futsal, while at ground level, considerable streetscaping was needed to return the four boundary streets to standard post construction.

"The full façade restoration of the Mary Glowrey building to Victorian heritage requirements included the removal and replacement of all the existing aluminium windows with new steel windows," said Michael.

"There are 21 different types of glazing and façade on the external building," said

Michael. "The other complexity of the façade is that a lot of areas were difficult to build as they were built under overhangs of the new building above."

BESIX Watpac were also responsible for the procurement and installation of all of the furniture and fitouts in all the office and learning spaces. The massive fitout was undertaken on one afternoon while the day shift of 350-400 workers was still operating.

The project embraces diversity with the selection of a range of finishes used within the interior spaces, namely internal wall and floor finishes incorporating perforated aluminium panels, tiling, vinyl, carpet, mable, fabric, paint and so on, to help blend the two buildings together.

Watpac's rich Australian history has been four decades in the making and is defined by long-standing partnerships and intimate local knowledge. Now backed by the global strength of the BESIX Group, they incorporate world's-best practice and the latest innovation into all their projects.

For more information contact BESIX Watpac, Level 7, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000, phone 03 9649 2200, website www.besixwatpac.com





SHAPING THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION WITH COLLABORATIVE AV TECHNOLOGY

The integration of seamless AV solutions at the Australian Catholic University's (ACU) Saint Teresa of Kolkata Building has been a remarkable achievement, thanks to the efforts of InSight Systems. Collaborating with ACU, builder BESIX Watpac, and consultant AECOM, InSight Systems brought the University's AV requirements to life.

From the outset, InSight Systems established clear lines of communication with ACU, architects, builders, and consultants. This open dialogue gave a comprehensive understanding of the project requirements and goals. InSight Systems' project management team took the lead in coordinating all aspects of the AV integration process, ensuring a smooth and efficient workflow from start to finish.

"Working with InSight Systems proved that audio visual integration does not need to be complex. Their can-do approach to every aspect of the project was welcomed. We would like all sub-contractors we

employ to deliver beyond expectations and the team from InSight Systems did that for us," said Barry Whewell, General Manager – Major and Special Projects at BESIX Watpac.

The primary objective for the Saint Teresa of Kolkata Building was to implement AV solutions that fostered connectivity and collaboration, allowing students, faculty, and the community to engage in meaningful interactions.

Renowned brands such as Panasonic, Crestron, Logitech, and Williams Sound were incorporated into the AV solutions, ensuring a consistent teaching and learning experience throughout the building.

Given the diverse AV requirements of the development of a new on-campus building, integration with ACU's unified communications (UC) platform was paramount. InSight Systems was able to customise solutions for each classroom, collaboration space, staff hub, amphitheatre, and lecture theatre, ensuring the best possible experience for all users.

Recognising the importance of creating versatile state-of-the-art educational spaces, InSight Systems incorporated a range of innovative AV solutions. This included installing projectors in small classrooms to facilitate the streaming of lessons, ensuring effective and accessible remote learning. Students can easily connect to their classrooms, observing their lecturers while viewing the projected content or screen visible to physically present students. This approach enhances the learning experience for both in-person and remote students.

For larger spaces like lecture theatres, dual, single-projection, and repeat display technology was incorporated. This enables students to view class slides on-screen, regardless of their seating position within the theatre. Like the remote learning features in smaller classrooms, large lecture theatres can also broadcast each lecture to students engaging in remote learning.

To keep teachers, students and guests informed while navigating classrooms, meeting rooms and lecture theatres, ACU-related updates are now projected on digital signage throughout the building.

The successful completion of the Kolkata Building project is a testament to effective communication and collaborative strategies. In today's rapidly evolving world, effective digital communication

strategies are essential in schools and universities. InSight Systems recognises the importance of creating a seamless technology experience, considering the broader scope, and tailoring innovative, integrated, and adaptable solutions.

Director of Projects and Operations at InSight Systems, Dennis Craig, said, "We have enjoyed being an integral part of the project and have worked closely with ACU, BESIX Watpac and AECOM, as our commitment to culture, quality, and excellent service delivery align. We take great pride in shaping the future of education at ACU with collaborative AV technology."

InSight System knows successful AV integration projects hinge on effective project management and clear communication with all stakeholders. By prioritising collaboration, communication, transparency, and commitment to results, they deliver a client and stakeholder experience beyond expectations.

For more information contact InSight Systems, phone 1300 369 451, website www.insightsystems.com.au