

# VISION

ISSUE 30

FEATURE  
PROJECT  
ISSUE

# HIGH DISTINCTION

MONASH  
UNIVERSITY  
HALLS OF  
RESIDENCE

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LOGAN HALL  
MCBRIDE CHARLES RYAN ARCHITECTS

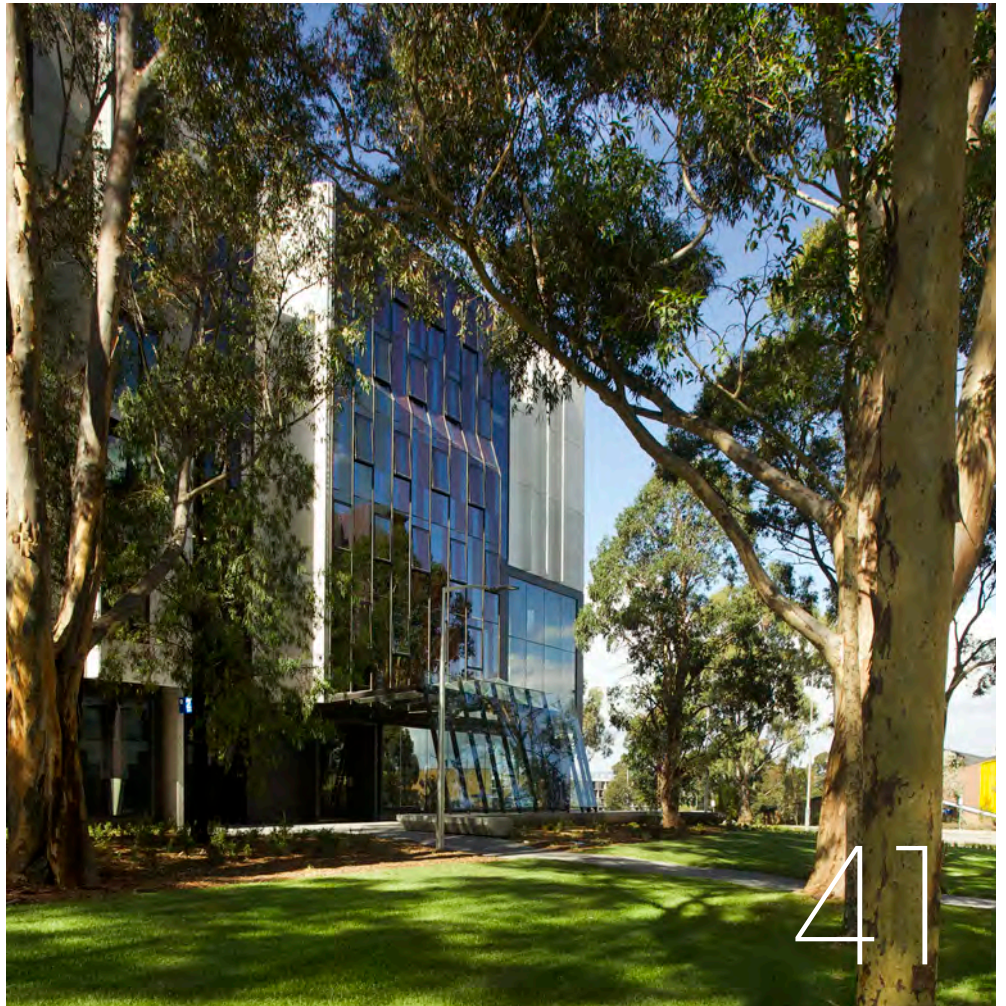


TURNER HALL  
JACKSON CLEMENTS BURROWS ARCHITECTS

[Click to view Monash University Halls of Residence:](#)







HOLMAN & CAMPBELL HALLS  
HAYBALL AND RICHARD MIDDLETON ARCHITECTS

## 04

### HIGH DISTINCTION

MONASH UNIVERSITY  
HALLS OF RESIDENCE  
CLAYTON, VIC

Monash University's four bold new halls of residence are an impressive investment in education here and now, rather than the virtual experience tethered via cyberspace.

Four design practices teamed to produce site-specific buildings right in the heart of campus – possibly to the surprise of some who view such real estate as the province of more strictly academic pursuits. Without any hint of competing 'styles', each practice contributes a convincing, compatible vision:

Hayball and Richard Middleton Architects (RMA), McBride Charles Ryan (MCR) and Jackson Clements Burrows Architects (JCBA) were given one building each (two for the joint Hayball and RMA team) and briefed to deliver common areas, landscaped spaces and residential areas all under the now familiar umbrella of a 5-Star Green Star rating.

An ensemble of Viridian Low-E performance glazing stars in the delivery of these enlivened, distinguished designs full of light and life. Rather than inert skins, glass walls and windows-as-gills create a mellifluous environmental dialogue.





# HIGH DISTINCTION

FOUR NEW HALLS OF RESIDENCE









UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA





Previous page, left and above:  
The dramatic north and north-east elevation of Logan Hall with soon to be installed retail spaces planned for the building's undercroft.

**PROJECT**  
Monash University  
Halls of Residence

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**TEXT, IMAGES & FILM**  
Peter & Jenny Hyatt

Monash University's Clayton campus is a story much less of student revolt than sustained evolution. Melbourne's new population epicentre 25 kilometres to the CBD's south-east, the 100 hectare paddock of diesel and dust, circa 1962 has been digested into the city's sprawl, not as featureless 'same old' but cosmopolitan campus distinguished by tracts of stellar landscape and clusters of heady architecture.

With more than 20,000 students on this single campus alone, the university shows no signs of relaxing its ambition to perform as a global player. And here inclusiveness, rather than the cellular silo variety rules.

At first glance it might appear old-fashioned to create student housing in the Age of the Internet and on-line education and yet this counter-intuitive approach has been quickly adopted. As a substantial bonus, on-site living promises a livelier learning environment than blistering download speeds. This cultural attitude to align learning with living is central to a long-term strategy above and beyond cyberspace. In a relative eye-blink Monash University can now accommodate an additional 1,000 students on campus.

Successive Vice-Chancellors with an interest in the natural and built environment have contributed to the dynamic, uplifting and contemplative. Student housing is a newer chapter and an imperative commercial consideration in the age of shrinking government funding.





Repeated glazing elements are a fundamental characteristic of student residences; they are collections of little dwellings and glass is the connection of each dwelling to the world and it's very important to get that right.

PROF. SHANE MURRAY, MONASH UNIVERSITY FACULTY DEAN





Turner Hall's wide-screen, low-rise reveals a technicolor array of window shades.

The university's four newly-minted halls of residence – Turner, Holman, Logan and Campbell – testify to the power of architecture as stylish flagship rather than inflated folly. And rather than the austere, discounted and side-lined types across general residential developments, these are centrally located – right in the heart of campus. Their location improves relevance and design that deftly handles the potentially conflicting needs of privacy and connection – achieved with clever footprints, spatial flow as way-finding and strategic universal/communal spaces.



It's no coincidence that Monash University drew on the expertise of its Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture in developing the halls of residence competition process. The benefits of their input from conception to completion are apparent throughout.

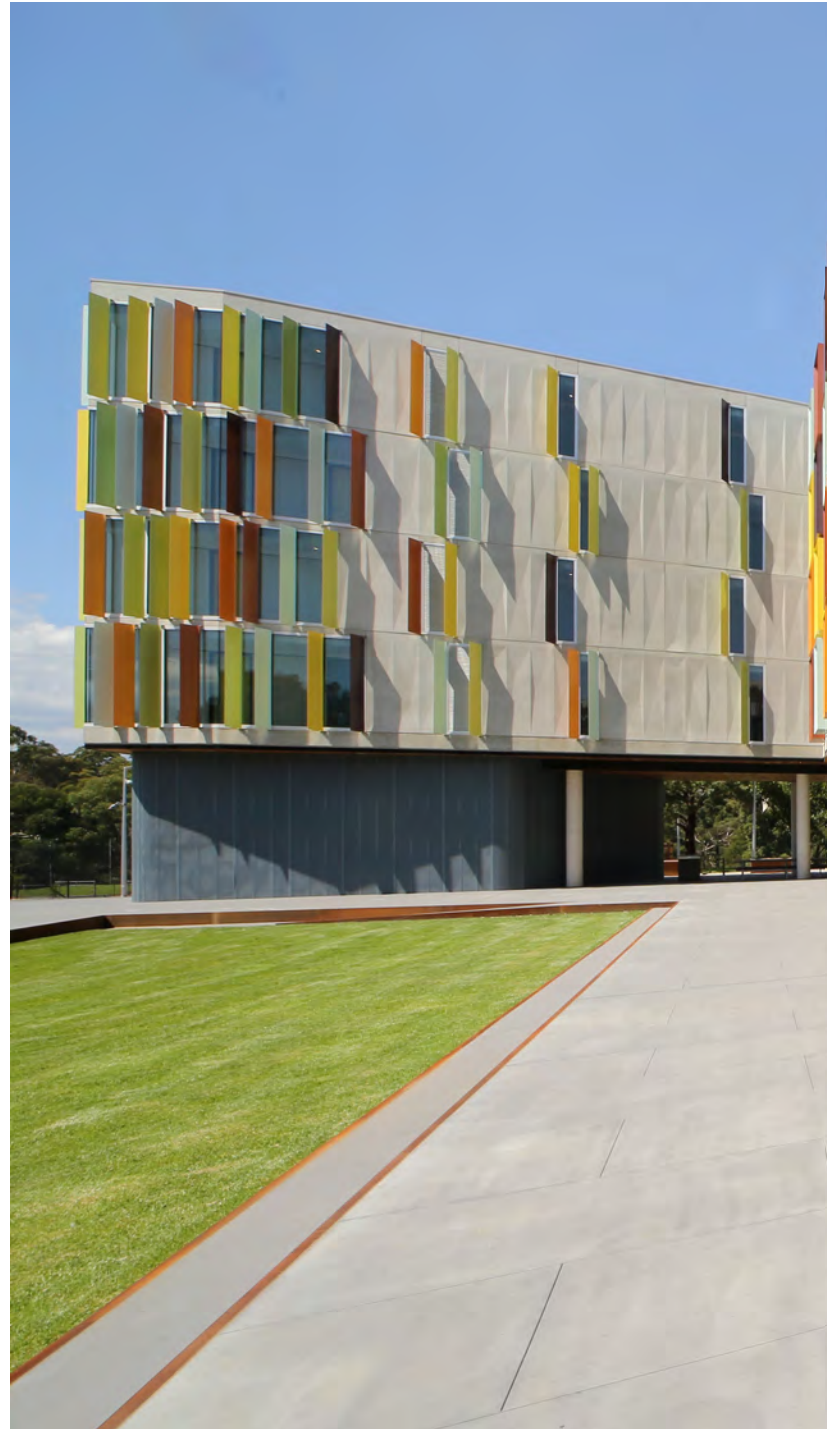
Faculty Dean, Prof. Shane Murray advises the university's Estates Committee on consultant selection and together with invited external senior architects and the university senior management, designs were reviewed throughout their development. He cites Monash as the city's leader in campus living with these new halls of residence. He was also determined that the results would set new benchmarks for housing students who in turn will activate the campus much more fully than the usual tidal flow of students.

Prof. Murray says the result of these residential buildings is as animated 'contributors' to their settings. "A couple of these projects are really in the epicentre of the university and fully part of the operation of the campus. There's a type of fluidity between the life of learning and living and there is seamless interconnection. That works both for the residents and most importantly it enriches the life of everyone on the campus which is the other great benefit of living in a more integrated way."

"These buildings are obviously residential colleges and the most important thing about a student residence is that you have a lot of windows. It's their most enduring characteristic and these buildings are a fantastic catalogue of different approaches to glazing in building.

"Monash has a very deep commitment to sustainability. The combination of very high performance solar glass with large expanses of glazing relative to environmental constraints is challenging. Combining different approaches to the proportion of the glazing and the way the skin of the building and other solar treatments shield the glass, particularly when facing east or west, has been a key element in animating these buildings.

Open, activated ground floors typify all halls. Performance glass, overhangs and vivid window shades contribute to another bold, extroverted façade able to match views and energy ratings.













New landscaping to north creates courtyards and sheltered views to parkland and the parallel Sports Walk to the south. Campbell Hall in the immediate foreground and Holman Hall behind.

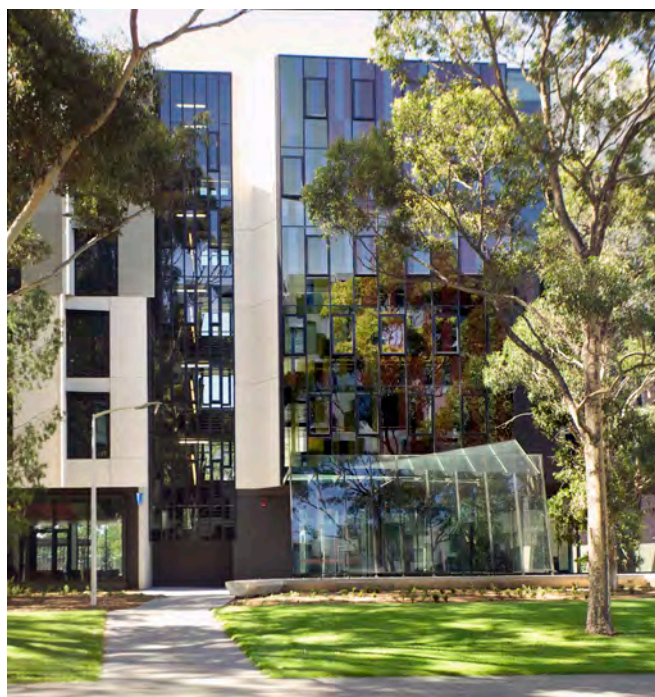


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THE HALLS OF  
RESIDENCE









Left: Subtle south-façade differences of Holman and Campbell Halls. Bespoke, folded glazing and signature interior colours assist in the connection and individuality of these adjacent projects.

Repeated glazing elements are a fundamental characteristic of student residences; they are collections of little dwellings and glass is the connection of each dwelling to the world and it's very important to get that right."

These projects cater for some 1,000 new students-in-residence and are centrally sited – alongside sports fields and established leafy avenues for instance – rather than marginalised to the edge of campus or worse, off campus altogether. The whole project mounts a brilliant case for architecture allowed to perform at its budgetary best rather than value-managed and finally discounted into oblivion.

Glass rather than pre-cast, provides crucial legibility and amenity for all buildings in addition to highlighting circulation zones from staircases through to shared social spaces and studio apartments.

Each project reveals a convincing sustainability position – starting with the easily forgotten, yet crucial, saved daily student commute. Various energy saving strategies include the absence of air-conditioning, thermal stacking, passive ventilation and window/wall shading in combination with performance glazing.

The use by each practice of Viridian performance glass expresses and translates designs that comply with the university's preference for locally sourced and manufactured materials to more authentically demonstrate origin as key within the sustainability chain.

Jackson Clements Burrows' five storey 'Turner Hall' offers elegance and exuberance with technicolour window fenestration. A cranked plan to its slender, linear form helps eliminate deep, daylight deprived floor-plates. Generous glazing throughout goes well beyond symbolism or gesture to ensure multiple apertures for a response not merely to light, but views to playing fields to the south and north towards a blend of verdant new and old landscape.

McBride Charles Ryan's (MCR) Logan Hall is an eight-storey precast structure that wraps with the sun's orientation on its east-north elevation and a monochromatic L-shape plan to the south-west with a distinctively rhythmic window geometry. MCR's fixed shading, high performance glazing,



thermal mass and insulation contribute to a design highly-tuned to its assorted elevations – most notably the leafy avenue known as Sports Walk and its fritted billboard wall to the east. Partially hooded glazing and glass on the east elevation present interactive billboards of hyper-art.

Hayball and Richard Middleton Architects', six storey 'Holman Hall' and 'Campbell Hall' alternate between opening boldly to the south and of necessity, a more conservative counterpoint to the north and west. Internal and external glazing is nuanced to better bridge the adjacent elysian fields and tree-lined canopy with living zones. Working in association, Hayball and Middleton refer to circulation 'knuckles' where students filter, gather or pass throughout their buildings with such a highly integrated subtext.

All practices demonstrate the value of what might be termed 'democratic design'. Students separated from family and friends, often by great distance, now have every opportunity to fully assimilate with university life. The image of the disconnected, soulless 'dorm' is nowhere to be seen at Monash. Life, light and colour all contribute to completion of the missing link of the university's more than half century of achievement. Finally students have a place to call home. Right where it matters – in the heart of campus.



A protected courtyard results from a delta-shaped building footprint.







# LOGAN HALL

MCBRIDE CHARLES RYAN











A chequer-board of glazing, triangulated window hoods and reflective glazing richly animate the south-west elevation and courtyard of Logan Hall.





MCBRIDE CHARLES RYAN  
PRACTICE STATEMENT

*Carefully selected materials and maximised standard window shapes assist in developing a playful façade of repetitive elements. Student housing should feel playful and vibrant. Colour, form and generous communal spaces imbue a sense of joy. And there are surprises including the fire stair which is probably the most lively and vibrant kaleidoscope of colour of any fire stair in the world.*

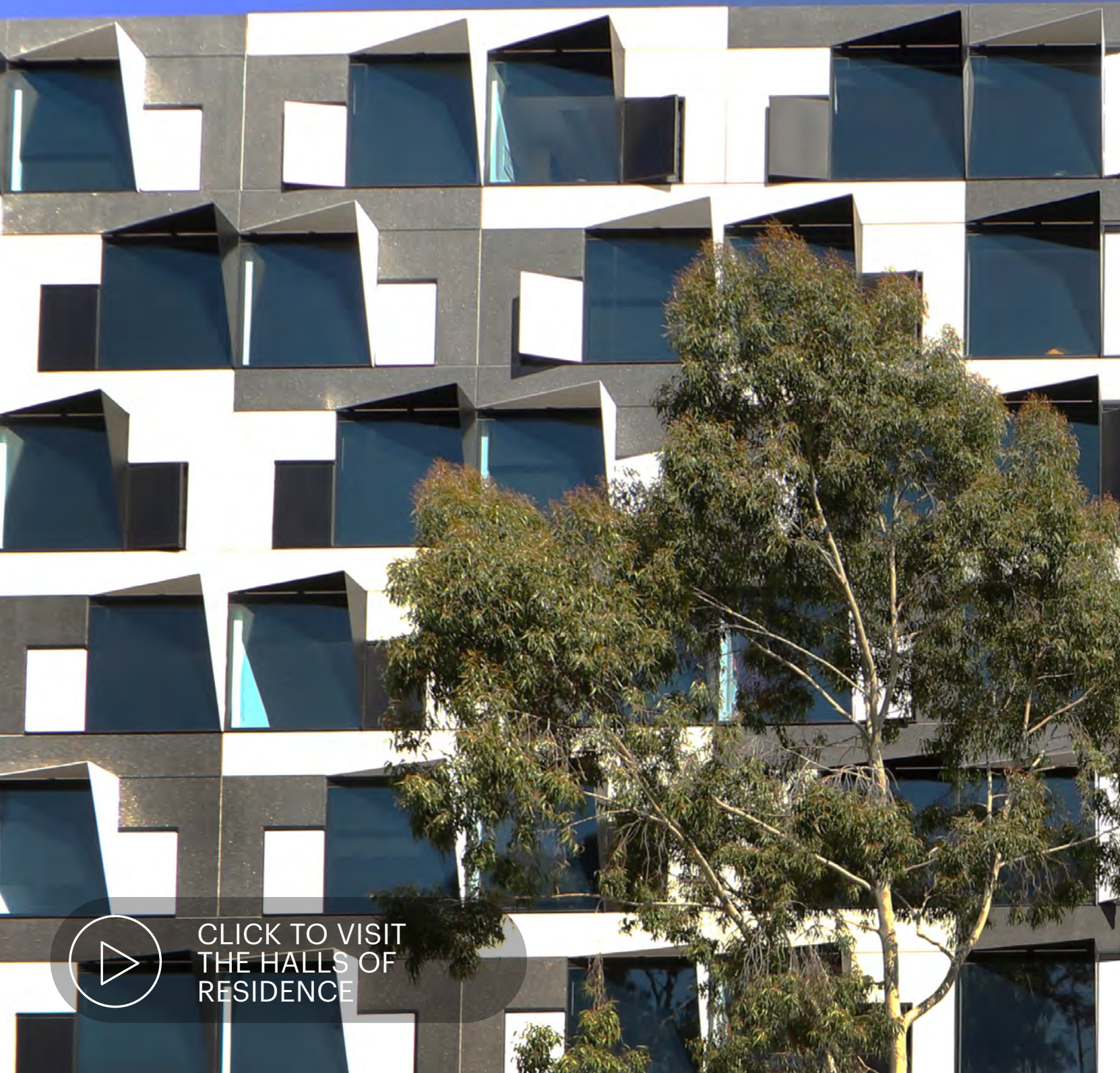
*Feeling connection as a student really underlines our design approach. There is a small communal space for around every 25 students to help build a sense of connection. Many of the students here are a long way from their families and need a place that has some of the intimacy and connectedness of home. Life is not hopeless if you have companionship and a wonderful environment.*

*All of the housing has wonderful views and daylight. Views through eucalyptus trees on the Sports Walk, to The Dandenongs and over newly landscaped student gardens and the main campus. Corridors were planned to open up to views and daylight – the faceted curvature aids this ambition.*

*The larger communal spaces are more about larger gatherings or activity-based gathering. To enliven the façade, this skin is integrated with the function and construction technique.*



Contrasting facades on Logan Hall —  
one with eye-lids, the other a giant billboard  
of glass as cool geometric signature.



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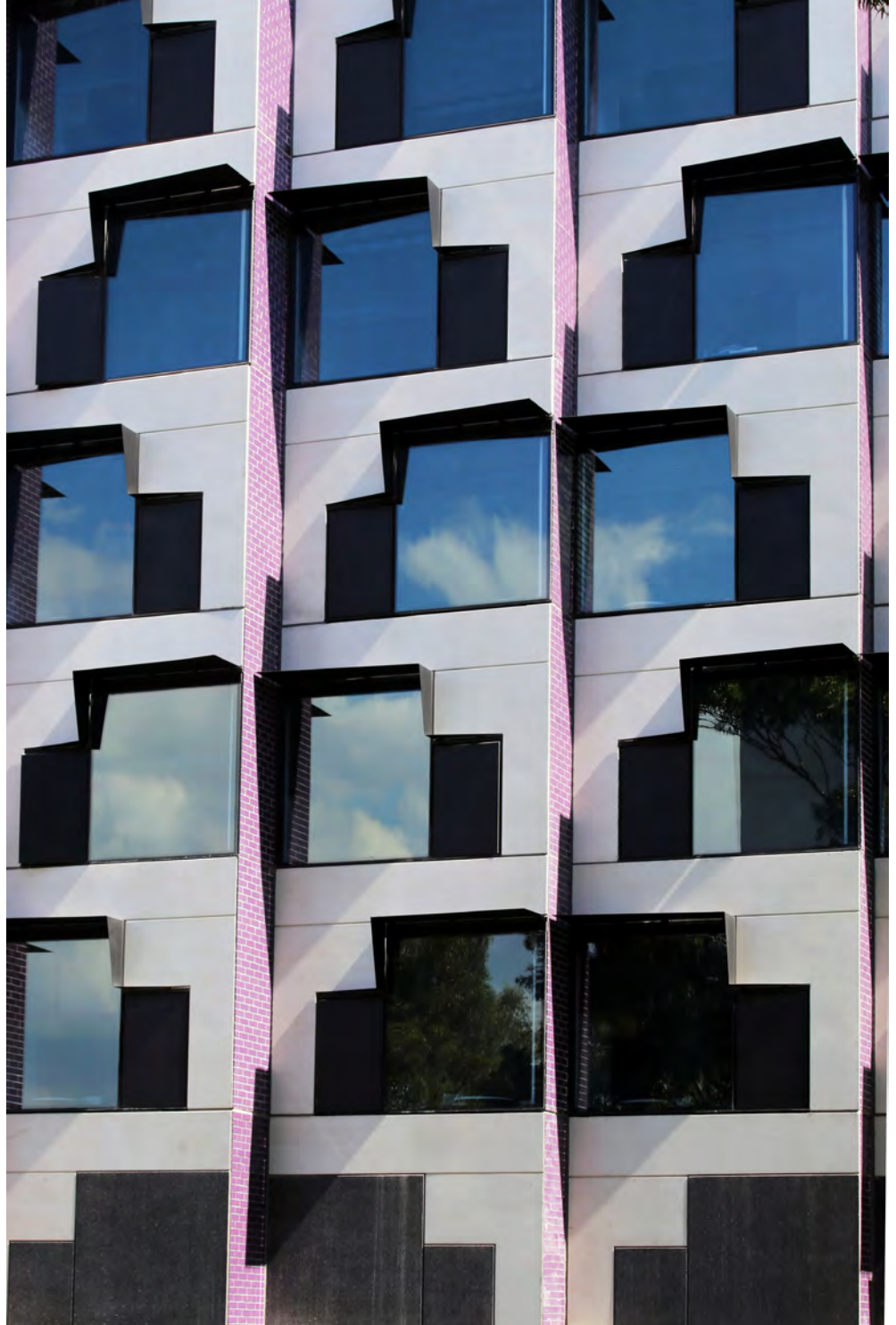






Left The university's Sport's Walk produces a myriad pattern of dappled shadow under a canopy of green.

Right: A robust, colourful materiality and form.



Windows were integrated as part of the design pattern along with maximising views and daylight into the accommodation.

MCBRIDE CHARLES RYAN



Student lounges are typically split level and mezzanine and demonstrate a great generosity of space and daylight.











Many of the students here are a long way from their families and need a place that has some of the intimacy and connectedness of home.

MCBRIDE CHARLES RYAN

*Our building is on a more restricted site on the academic campus. This is the first time residences have had such close proximity to the academic campus. We felt the weight of this. What is academic institution and what is student accommodation? How could they co-exist?*

*With this design, accommodation is arranged to all parameters of the building. The rooms and windows are repetitive and accommodate all different orientations and conditions based around a confined corner site.*

*Viridian SolTech™ double glazing unit was used to achieve the ESD aspiration. Its reflection and transparency enhances the façade by balancing precast concrete's solidity. Windows were integrated as part of the design pattern along with maximising views and daylight into the accommodation.*





*We used modularity to create the significant formal architectural gesture to the north. This highlighted the significance of the Sports Walk and referenced the early Brutalist campus architecture. This gesture also created the opportunity to provide a pedestrian colonnade and generally open up the internal public spaces. Externally we were careful with detailing of this gesture to give it a type of anti-structural aesthetic, as if perhaps it had simply and effortlessly, slipped. For the remainder of the facades, we wanted to be rectilinear, as a foil to the expression to the north elevation. On the sides we used the modularity of panel construction techniques in combination with the sun-shades, windows and natural ventilation.*

Colour splashes enrich interiors rather than the typical Modernist white and grey variety.









# TURNER HALL

JACKSON CLEMENTS BURROWS







This relationship between the coloured sculptural forms and coloured shading elements on the upper levels, along with curtain wall transparency contributes to the appearance of these levels floating within the landscape.



JACKSON CLEMENTS BURROWS  
PRACTICE STATEMENT

*Our approach was to deliver a building that fostered and celebrated the idea of the student community on campus. For us this first translates in plan as a building that wraps itself around a landscaped courtyard. The main common spaces on the ground floor spill into the courtyard and really celebrate the communal aspect of living on campus. Moving up through the building, each floor has two accommodation wings of around 30 student rooms.*

*Each wing has its own floor lounge where smaller groups of students come together to cook, study and simply hangout. As spaces they have fantastic views over the sports-fields and surrounding landscape, and where students will meet and possibly build lifelong friendships. Building finishes are generally very playful and engaging. We want students to enjoy coming home of an evening, to meet new friends and be proud of where they live.*



Evidence of a thoughtful masterplan with wide circulation zones, strong tree planting and sheltered gathering spaces.



*The ground level façade is conceived as a glazed curtain-wall punctuated with a series of sculptural masses. The intention is an engaging dynamic between the building as landscape. The ground floor façade transparency is critical in the integration of communal spaces with the external courtyard setting, adjacent reserve to the north and playing fields to the south. The sculptural masses which punctuate the ground floor façade are coloured to contrast and enhance the dynamism of the changing colours of the shading elements on the upper levels. They also animate key building spaces. This relationship between the coloured sculptural forms and coloured shading elements on the upper levels, along with curtain wall transparency contributes to the appearance of these levels floating within the landscape.*

**The intention is an engaging dynamic between the building as landscape.**

JACKSON CLEMENTS BURROWS

Leaf-like metal blades, or wings on the north and west elevation provide crucial shading with minimal compromise to vista.











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THE HALLS OF  
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Robust communal spaces express a virtuoso balance and intersection of materials from the diamond-like glass to glazed brickwork and polished concrete.



*The approach to the upper level facades is system-‘ized’ and is based around orientation and aspect. A number of window modules or sunshade types, clad in a lightweight metal skin, have been designed and developed. Each window or sunshade varies depending on its specific aspect and orientation. This results in the skin of the building developing and changing as the orientation of student rooms change.*

*The combination of these window and sunshade elements creates a continuous, singular skin which appears elastic and ever changing, depending from where the building is seen or approached. The dynamic, kinetic nature of this façade is further emphasised by the changing colours around the building. Given the building’s broader landscape context, the colours are intended to reflect seasonal changes. By celebrating the colour in the landscape diversity is brought to the individual rooms within the building.*

Each window or sunshade varies depending on its specific aspect and orientation. This results in the skin of the building developing and changing as the orientation of student rooms change.

JACKSON CLEMENTS BURROWS







*The density and variance of the window modules and shutter types are critical in defining the specific spaces of the building. For example there is significantly more glazing surrounding the circulation spaces and the floor lounges. This helps these internal spaces to engage with the landscape and is critical in defining the internal program.*

*A precast pattern has been developed for the solid sections of the facade. The evolving design plays with light, shadow and movement to create a subtly changing sculptural background to the coloured sunshades.*

*All aspects of the upper levels emanate from the central core of the building. The floor lounges are located immediately adjacent to the core to ensure that visual connections between circulation spaces and the communal spaces are generated.*



# HOLMAN & CAMPBELL HALLS

HAYBALL AND RICHARD MIDDLETON ARCHITECTS









## HAYBALL AND RICHARD MIDDLETON ARCHITECTS PRACTICE STATEMENT

*The form of these buildings is influenced by environmental practice to manage solar gain and encourage natural light. Small variations in the panel shapes of the facades help refract light for delicate surface embellishment. A coloured 'hood' window of each studio glows of an evening.*

*This pair of six-storey L-shaped pavilions interconnect via a pedestrian thoroughfare and spill out onto adjacent community parkland to the north, and Sports Walk Avenue on the south.*

*It's a project that reflects a collegiate atmosphere between all of the architectural practices. As a group we didn't want to simply produce a cookie-cutter version of four buildings, and the client, through the tender process, had a clear preference to involve four practices rather than receive a single language across all the buildings.*

We wanted sufficient transparency to accentuate the colour selection of our interiors because these buildings aren't only utilised by day.







A sweeping shelter for study, BBQ's and gatherings at Holman Hall.





A folded, south-facing glass façade responds to the environmental opportunity and a linkage to adjacent specimen eucalypts. Holman Hall.





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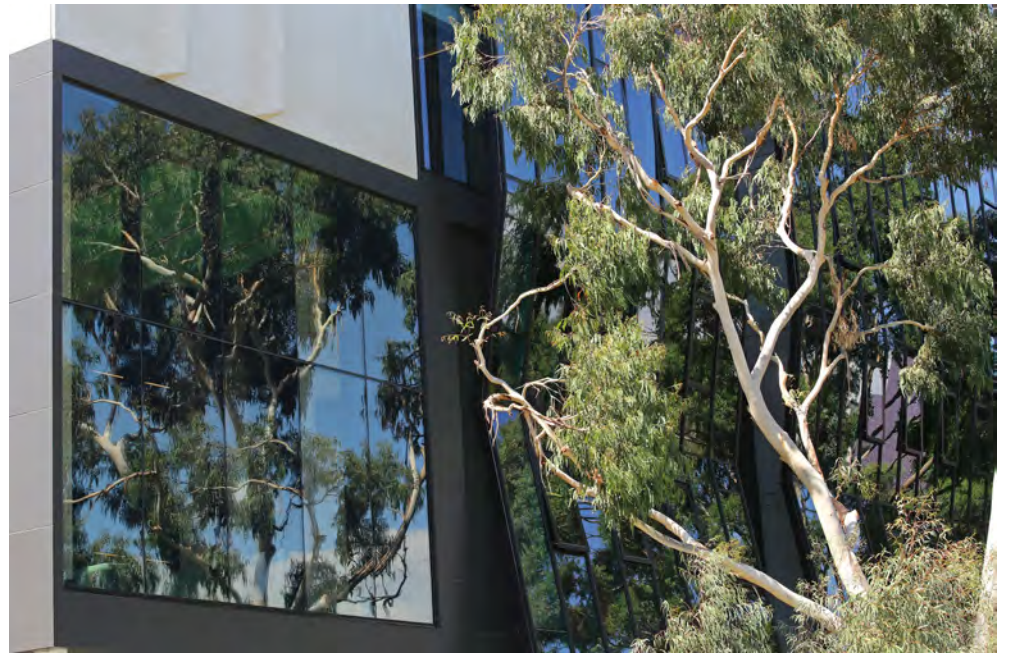






Evening occupancy meant transparency is vital and allows colour to read through that façade and signify the various communal spaces available.

HAYBALL AND RICHARD MIDDLETON ARCHITECTS







Student amenities remain fully open and visually connected to encourage student interaction.

Glass is also vital as a marker upon entry. Our coloured frit pattern forms the entry to Holman Hall and creates transparency by day and night.

HAYBALL AND RICHARD MIDDLETON ARCHITECTS





An inclined blade wall creates a contemporary porte cochere as highly comfortable transition zone at Campbell Hall.

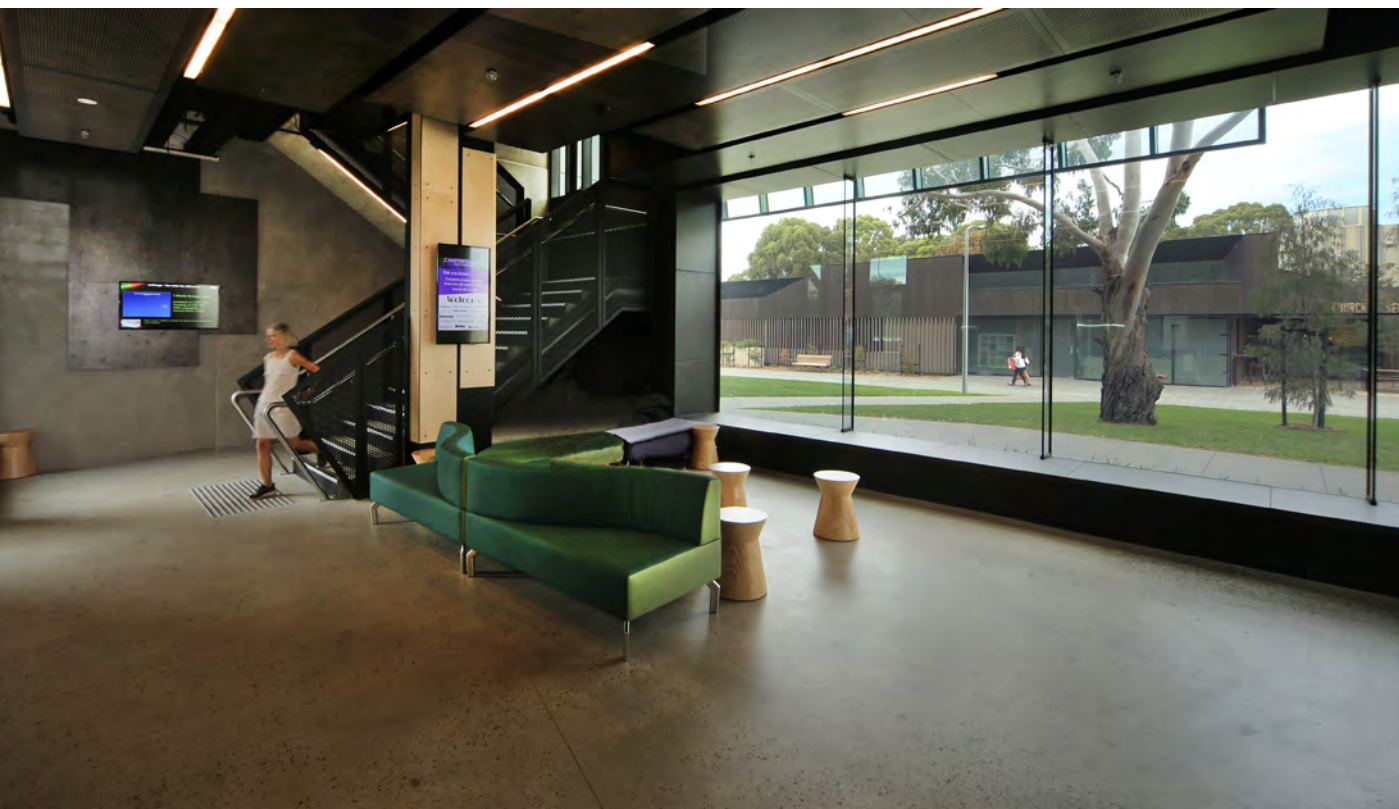




Right Rising behind the Victorian-era sobriety of the city's art gallery, the library speaks of a new vernacular fully open to the parkland and street-front.

*It was not simply a matter of arriving at a unique character for each building. Each of the four projects is notable in their treatment, emphasis and scale of communal spaces such as lobbies and halls. We created 'the knuckles' of each building where the two wings join and fly off from the entry node. This forms its 'knuckle'. We decided to accentuate this area to really create a greater sense of inclusion and community. Entry to our halls involves use of the open staircase that accesses all the communal spaces; kitchens, study spaces and games rooms. Occupants can't arrive at their apartment without passing these community spaces.*

*Pre-cast concrete panels work hard to create occupant privacy and shade to protect the glass. This helps permit the use of the clearest, most transparent glass possible. We wanted sufficient transparency to accentuate the colour selection of our interiors because these buildings aren't only utilised by day. Evening occupancy meant transparency is vital and allows colour to read through that façade and signify the various communal spaces available.*







*Glass is also vital as a marker upon entry. Our coloured frit pattern forms the entry to Holman Hall and creates transparency by day and night.*

*Due to the university slow-down over the high summer months, the design of these buildings could afford to take a much more seasonal, year-round approach. All of the new halls are naturally ventilated and use a combination of performance glazing, shading and passive ventilation systems.*









**PROJECT**  
Monash University Halls of  
Residence

**ARCHITECTS**  
Holman Hall & Campbell Hall:  
Hayball and Richard Middleton  
Architects

Logan Hall:  
McBride Charles Ryan

Turner Hall:  
Jackson Clements Burrows

**BUILDER**  
Brookfield Multiplex

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS**  
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