

VISION

ISSUE 47

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Viridian
we ♥ glass

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CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

Ivanhoe Residence, Melbourne

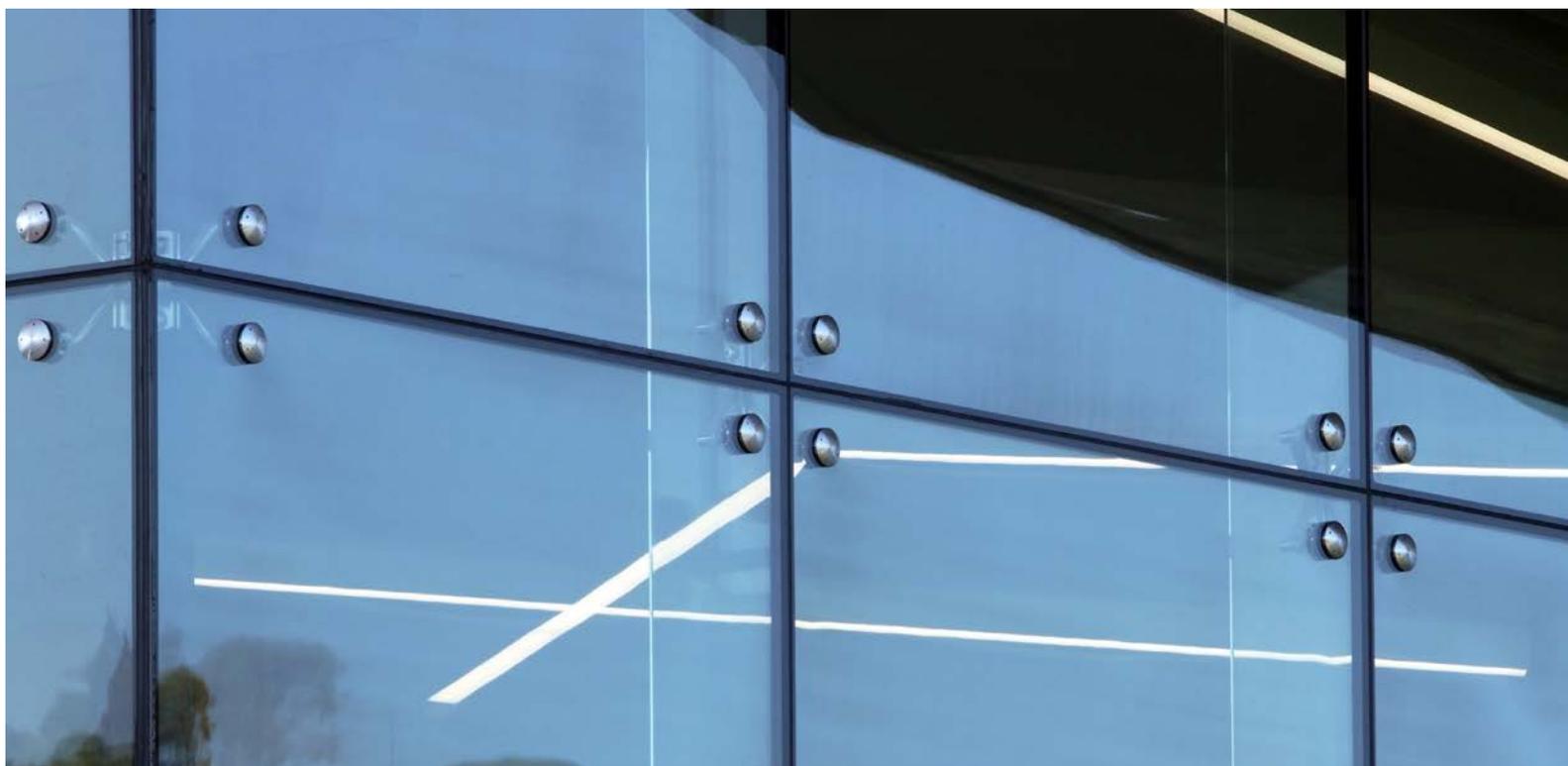
Viridian double glazed units are instrumental in the re-birth of this Baby Boomer subdivision in Ivanhoe, Melbourne. Dynamic geometry and sculptural form-making also showcase the builder/client skills.

This architecture speaks of exterior vigour and interior calm with flexible, interfluent spaces. Glenn Murcutt's praise for architecture of 'privacy and prospect' is reflected in a design on public view and private retreat.

Architect Daniel Xuereb's marriage of hard with soft, heavy with light, mass with void produce a specific, highly responsive, relationship to place.



CLICK TO VISIT THE
IVANHOE RESIDENCE



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HIGH MARKS

Werribee Tigers Football Club, Victoria

An array of Viridian performance glazing has proven significant in transforming the home of the Werribee Tigers Football Club. Located in a rapid population growth corridor 32 kms south-west of Melbourne, this formerly rural Australian Rules team is now fully connected to the metropolis.

The Werribee Tigers are part of the VFL's vital player development program and conduit for the AFL national competition. The Club's new mini-stadium is designed to reflect the expectations of players and spectators.

This new facility also expands to accommodate female players along with a diverse range of community groups to bring maximum benefit.

Architects JMA Architects juggled a diverse client group and worked closely with Viridian to produce a superior visitor/player experience. The extensive use of frameless glazing and bespoke patch fittings provide a wrap-around, seamless envelope with brilliant, wide-angle views. Considered as a mini-stadium, or maxi-pavilion, the result is a quiet triumph fully deserving of high praise and high marks.



CLICK TO VISIT THE
WERRIBEE TIGERS
FOOTBALL CLUB



CLO
ENC

A photograph of a modern interior space featuring a curved staircase. A woman in a teal dress is walking up the stairs, which have a white handrail. The staircase is set against a large, white, curved wall that follows the curve of the stairs. The floor is made of light-colored wood. In the background, there is a dark, textured wall and a small table with two bottles. The overall aesthetic is clean and contemporary.

OSE
COUNTERS



 [CLICK TO VISIT THE IVANHOE RESIDENCE](#)



Frank Lloyd Wright made the cantilevered house his own with the Robie House roof (1910) and Fallingwater (1937). Such projections were the stuff of dreams and illusion, floating, gravity-defying structure.

Mies van der Rohe's radical glass, marble and steel Barcelona Pavilion (1928) was another turning point that turned modern architecture on its head.

Both of these achievements inform Melbourne architect Daniel Xuereb's monumental design amid Ivanhoe's leafy boulevards. And just like his lofty predecessors, Xuereb works overtime to ensure the opportunity is grasped.

Sited on an elevated, sloping allotment, the design retains much of the existing garden. From the street-front, the house projects with a magisterial authority. Its balconies and windows fully engage with a pair of Pin Oak and Golden Elm trees. Glazing, 'stretched' across the south-facing street-front elevation brings vista and indirect light while maintaining a high level of privacy. Moving through the house beyond the tight armature of the grand winding staircase and lounge area, leads past a series of windows as picture frames. Views are provided east towards the pool and patio before arriving in the kitchen and living areas.

To the rear, the house is much more Mies-like, with specific and expansive use of Viridian double glazed units linking to its pool/patio. The architect and builder owners' preference for open spaces is repeated with cranked windows and feature 'wall' that adroitly avoids the more conventional plan.

With the passage of time and technology, such houses are high quality builds in every sense with understated, high-performance materials.

PROJECT

Ivanhoe Residence, Melbourne

ARCHITECTS

DX Architects (Daniel Xuereb)

PRINCIPAL GLAZING

Viridian double glazed units using Grey glass
Viridian SuperClear™

TEXT, IMAGES & FILM

Peter & Jenny Hyatt





Project architect Daniel Xuereb spoke with Vision's Peter Hyatt about a house that, despite its size and presence, builds a fluent relationship with its striking setting:

VISION How would you summarise the design?

DANIEL XUEREB We developed a combination of a cantilevered concrete floor and awning structures that expanded views from the interior beyond into the landscape. The sloped site allowed for central driveway access into the below ground basement for vehicle storage. A guest bedroom, storage and a gym was also located on this level. Manipulation of the building form has helped expand the interiors out into the landscape.

The entry provides an entrée to a sculptural staircase and vistas into and from the space.

The entry foyer opens onto a formal living area and incorporates large panel windows, a double height volume and a feature spiral stairwell that captures views through the two large windows at the front of the property.

And the rest of the house follows suit...

The first floor incorporates cantilevered concrete awnings and exposed ceilings, which express the building structure and allow for solar protection for the main living area.

The main living area wraps around the south west boundary of the site to focus views out to the feature swimming pool and external landscaping.





“With the passage of time and technology, such houses are high quality builds in every sense with understated, high-performance materials.”

VISION

“The entry foyer opens onto a formal living area and incorporates large panel windows, a double height volume and a feature spiral stairwell that captures views through the two large windows at the front of the property.”

DANIEL XUEREB, ARCHITECT



The inside/outside house description is something of a cliché but here you have a fantastic landscape the house embraces.

We were very much wanting to create a comfortable family home on this site, but also trying to achieve nice proportion in the structure. A journey was envisioned where you came in through the front door, being a more public part of the house, and then continuing through to the formal living area and past the feature spiral stair. From the entry the journey continues through the hallway area and into the back living area which very much connects and opens up to the backyard and provides views out to the swimming pool.

It reveals itself slowly and the slower you reveal, I think the better people absorb the story. Is there a story the house tells as you move through it?

We wanted the front formal room to capture views to the front yard and the two very well established trees, and in terms of the journey through that space, we then created a middle hallway threshold with smaller windows and warmer joinery colours. Once through the formal, public parts of the house and through to the private area, the main living spaces achieve a different proportion, with lower ceilings, which create a warmer interior and windows which capture views through to the landscaping at the rear.



The house has a number of qualities with tranquility and generosity coming to mind. You can buy a lot on a house and have neither of those.

We wanted to create an understated interior aesthetic for the dwelling and that was achieved by working with high quality materials and a colour palette in harmony with the landscape.

We very carefully worked through how we could achieve a concrete structure which expanded out into the landscape. We specifically chose to expose parts of this structure within the interiors of the rear of the building, and exposed this as the interior elements extended to the outside. In combination with glass, we arrive at some of those qualities you mention.

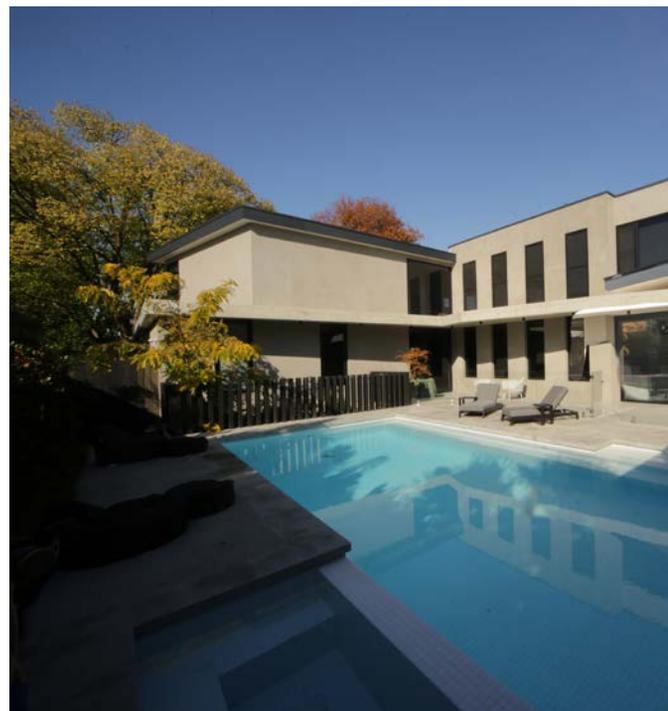
Juxtaposing material – concrete and glass for instance – allows each material to sing. Both highlight the other. Yes, the heaviness of the concrete structure juxtaposed with the lightness of glass and its inherent material qualities brings out that transparency and openness.

“We’re always looking at how best to make spaces connect with the outside, incorporation of windows, the right proportions and the right orientations.”

DANIEL XUEREB, ARCHITECT







There's a luxury that comes from those two working in harmony. It's evident with the mid-20th century Modernist's who realised real luxury is much less applied than intrinsic to design. Take your use of windows, that are virtually big picture frames with nature as the artwork.

The proportion and placement of all windows is also the key. They were very carefully positioned to capture views of trees and certain landscape features to create that sense of luxury we were after.

Do you have a highlight area?

The formal living area upon entry has the wow factor. It has a very large double height space with windows that capture views to one of the primary trees and we complemented that with a beautiful spiral staircase and lovely finished joinery.

There's great permeability.

We wanted a very sculptural form, working with the heavy quality of concrete and transparency of glass.

Have you a particular philosophy about environmentally sustainable materials and design that prefers locally sourced materials to imported product?

We worked with Viridian glass largely for that reason. We have a very sustainable building here, and working with these particular high performing, double-glazed windows with their grey tint maintains privacy from the street and also improves thermal comfort within.





“The heaviness of the concrete structure juxtaposed with the lightness of glass and its inherent material qualities brings out that transparency and openness.”

DANIEL XUEREB, ARCHITECT





Were there moments of grief?

The sloping site provided challenges but also some great advantages as to how we would evolve the design. We decided to bury the base of the building, which involved quite complicated waterproofing and a foundation solution, but then by setting that into the slope it allowed the upper levels to project and float into the landscape.

Glass contributes a sense of physical lightness that helps avoid the common tendency for the ponderous.

Yes. In all the projects we like to work on, we're always looking at how best to make spaces connect with the outside, incorporation of windows, the right proportions and the right orientations certainly helps us to illuminate the interiors and also to bring warmth and a lightness into those spaces.

Is a practice signature evident in this project?

We like to overlap volumes. We have projecting horizontal plates that define perimeters of the building and angled and skewed some of those walls to wrap the building around the site and reference views at the back by overlapping volumes.

You have the obvious, sculptural sweep of the staircase, but contrasting that is the seemingly two-dimensional glass planes that bring to life a whole external canvas.

Yes that's true. There is a permeability that really helps bring the house alive.

“We wanted to create an understated interior aesthetic for the dwelling and that was achieved by working with high quality materials and a colour palette in harmony with the landscape.”









“Working with these particular high performing, double-glazed windows with their grey tint maintains privacy from the street and also improves thermal comfort within.”

DANIEL XUEREB, ARCHITECT

PROJECT

Ivanhoe Residence, Melbourne

ARCHITECTS

DX Architects (Daniel Xuereb)

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

Mim Design

BUILDER

Leeds Projects

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

Perrett Simpson

LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Marnie Lewis Design

LANDSCAPE PLANT SELECTION

Balyeh (Aidan Nyhan)

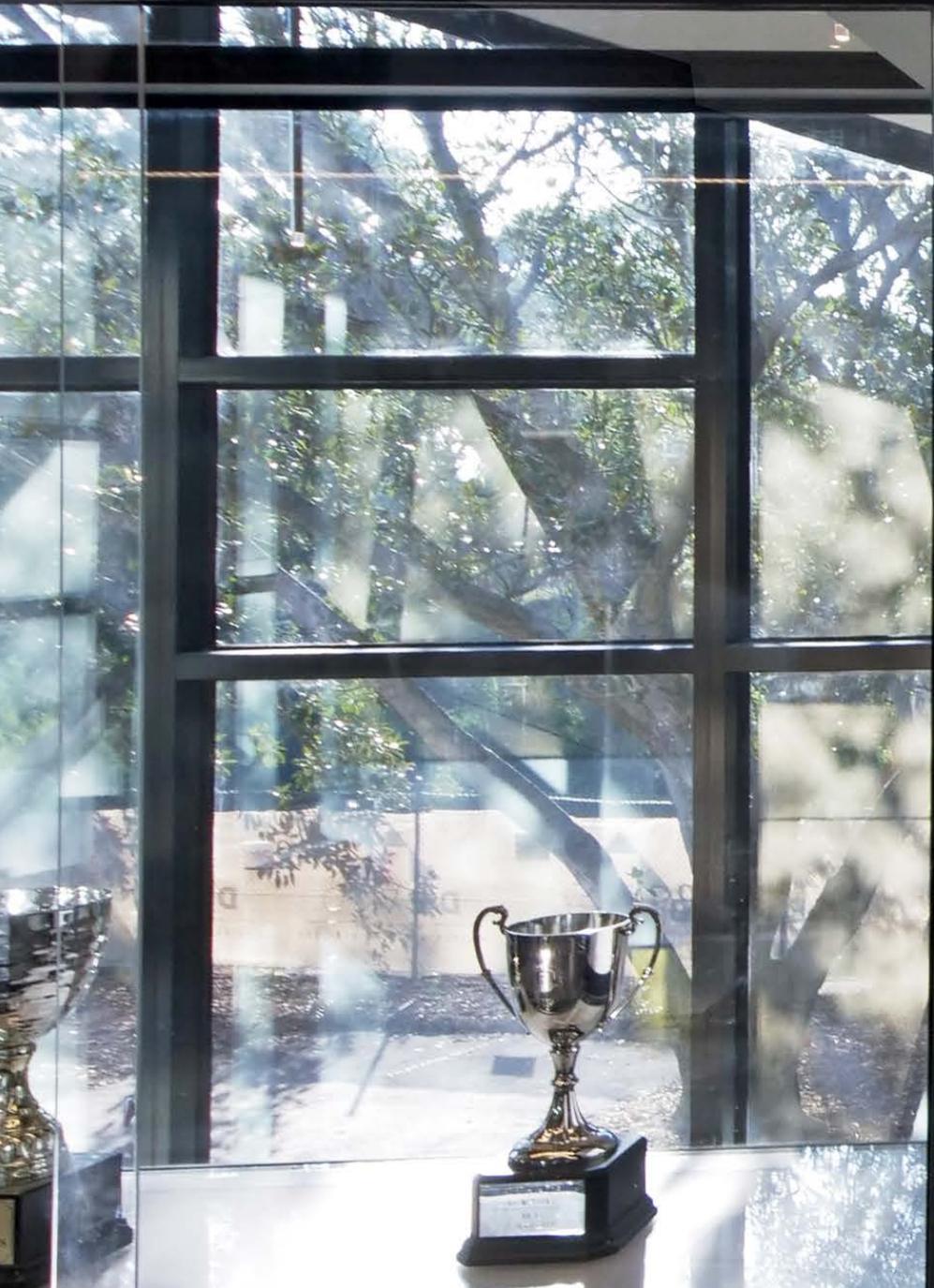
GLASS SUPPLIER

Viridian

PRINCIPAL GLAZING

Viridian double glazed units using Grey glass
Viridian SuperClear™

HIGH MARKS





 [CLICK TO VISIT THE WERRIBEE TIGERS FOOTBALL CLUB](#)



Suburban and country sports grounds are the lifeblood that eventually fill city stadia with footballers equipped to perform at the elite level. Rutted paddocks and concrete sheds are hardly the place for aspiring athletes.

As flagship tenants, the Werribee Tigers have received a superfine stadium-as-pavilion. While it might not be the biggest, the \$11 million plus project has a high quality feel throughout. Daylight fills its sinuous body with views paramount for this purpose.

Re-development of Avalon Airport Oval, Chirnside Park, included demolition of an existing pavilion and construction of a new two-storey 'gender equitable' pavilion.

Planning the new pavilion included preservation of the existing specimen fig trees, building code upgrades to the relocated heritage grandstand, working with a very narrow site and working with multiple stakeholders including WCC, VFL, AFL, AFL Vic, Cricket Victoria and North Melbourne 'Huddle'.

Visitor entry leads the public to an informal kiosk 'hub' and continues on to the grandstand and beyond. Spectators are greeted with an extensive array of frameless glazing – a critical design component for spectators and operators. All faces of the pavilion are activated through the considered placement of glazing which enables lunches amongst the tree tops and views from the club office at the north of the building through to the oval to the south.

PROJECT

Werribee Tigers Football Club

ARCHITECT

Bobbie Braun

PRINCIPAL GLASS COMPONENTS

Viridian Custom Laminate

Viridian Double Glazed unit
using EnergyTech Clear

Viridian SpectraPrism™
Arctic Snow

Viridian ComfortPlus Clear

TEXT, IMAGES & FILM

Peter & Jenny Hyatt



Vision's Peter Hyatt spoke with JMA Architect's Bobbie Braun about a project that delivers a big-picture result on a keenly competitive budget:

VISION This has apparently been a long-time in the making?

BOBBIE BRAUN The club first applied for funding in 2008 and we picked up the project in 2013. It had many starts and stops due to funding, so it is quite exciting to see it finally over the line.

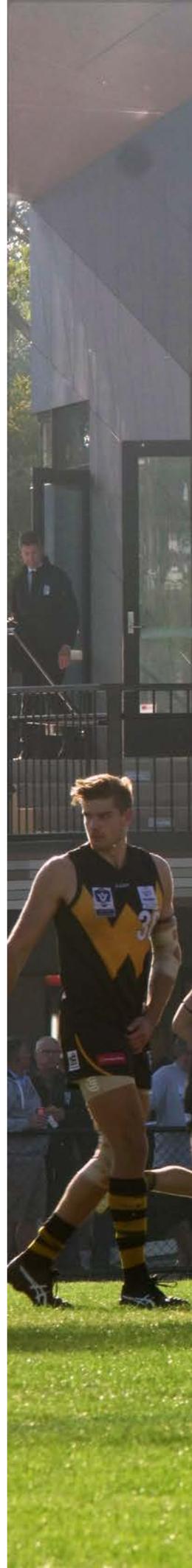
What is the real success of this project for your practice?

Getting multiple bodies on board and satisfying everyone's needs. Six stakeholders were involved and we really worked hard through several iterations to get it just right. We approached it like a Venn diagram with each stakeholder having a sphere of their own requirements and finding that perfect centre point where they all overlap.

Every architectural type has its own particular issues.

What tested the design/construct group here?

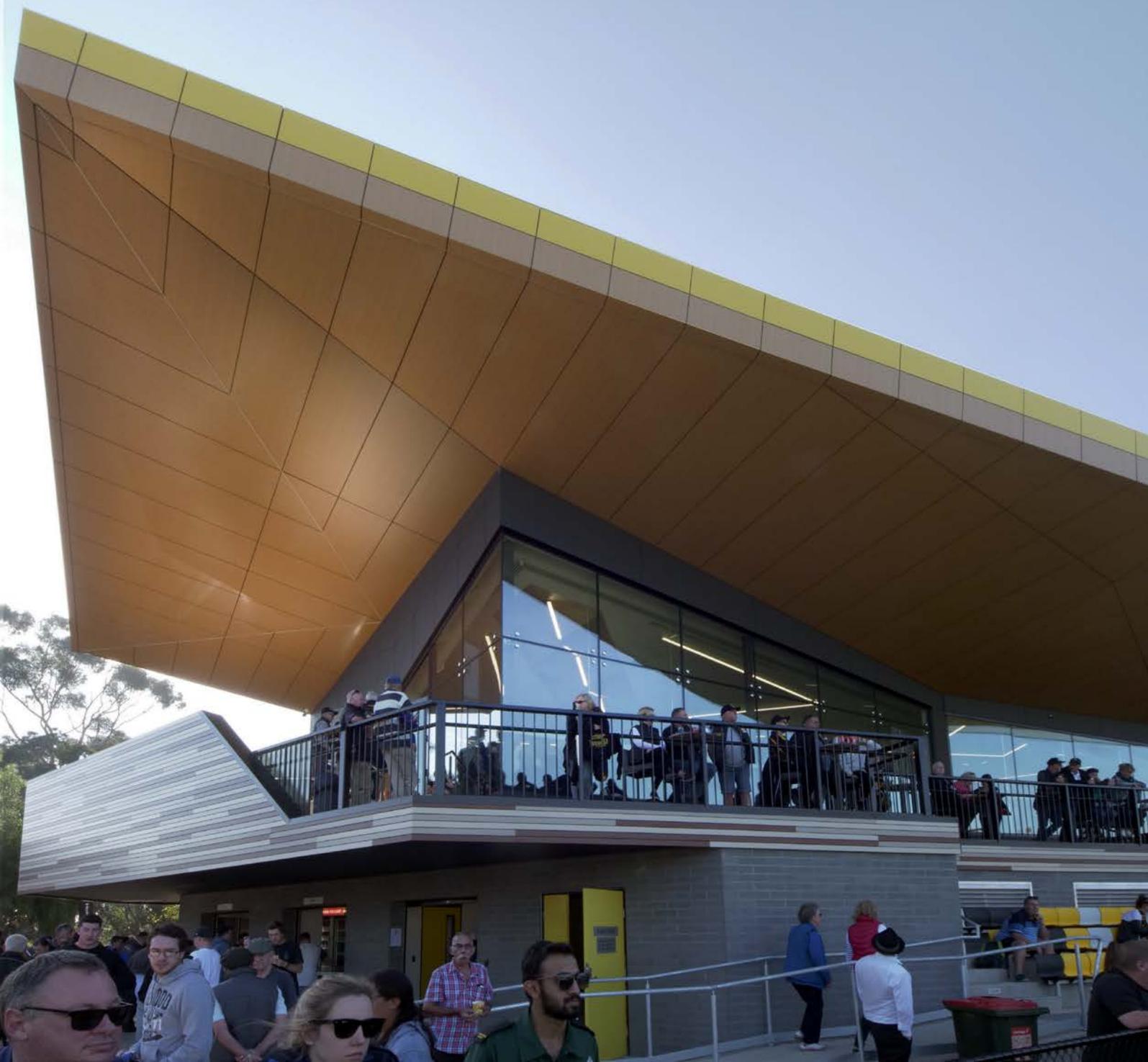
Well, there were several. The site itself is unusual. It's quite long and narrow and bound by a river at the back with the oval at the front. Some cricket nets to the east are retained with a road to the west. Those things led to a very long and narrow building. Fitting in change rooms, amenities, coaches boxes, social room, that sort of thing, into the form was quite challenging but I like to think that we got there in the end.





“Council certainly wants to see green design in its buildings, so we took a number of measures, including double-glazing throughout using Viridian’s EnergyTech™ Clear.”

BOBBIE BRAUN, ARCHITECT



How do you deliver a project that looks really polished when budgets are rarely adequate to meet client and user expectations?

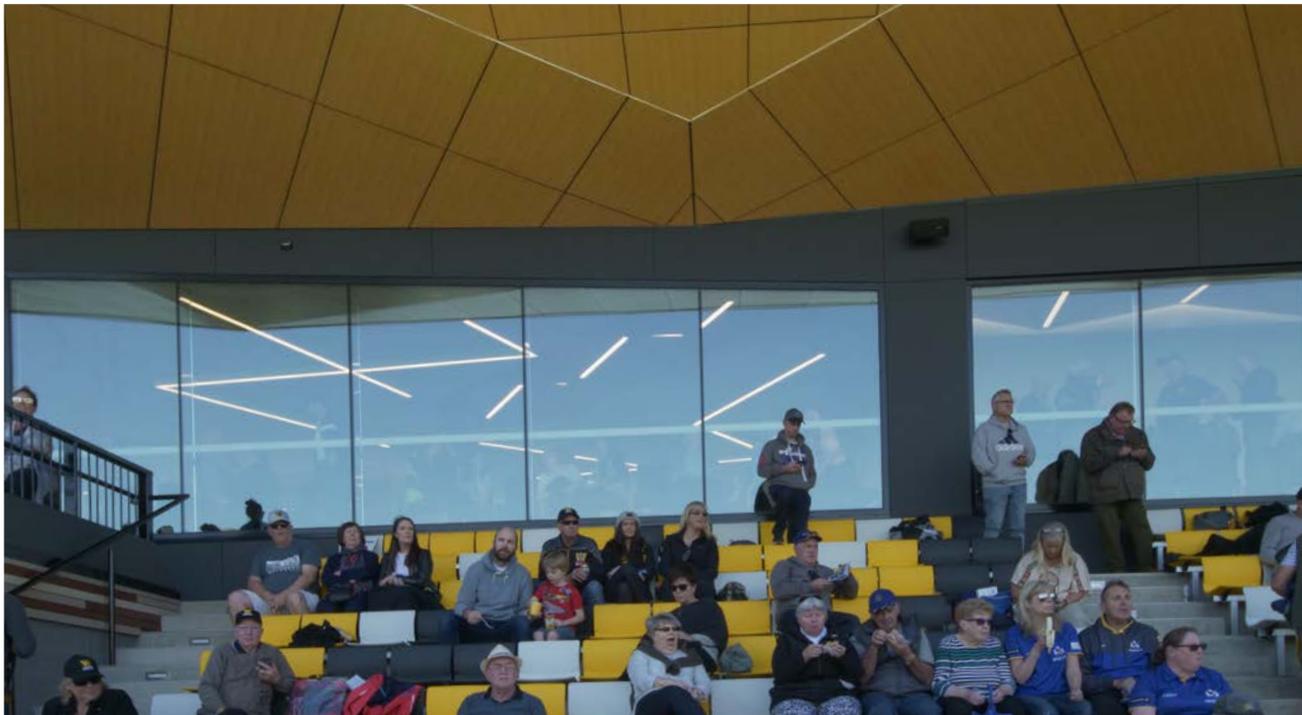
We were running pretty much to the limit. I believe we were down to a contingency of one percent, which we managed to achieve. It was quite astonishing for a budget of that size. We really tried to focus on the architecture of form, narrative and the use of affordable materials.

Generosity of space, materials and finishes can make all the difference.

We had countless meetings with a very large PCG group of 12 to 15 people all voicing their opinions. I'd like to think no-one felt compromised in the end, but certainly we were budget driven.

The thinness of your building in plan and volume, and a strong glazing program fills interiors with daylight.

That's true and through the use of glazing, we managed to provide views of the oval from almost anywhere within the building.







“Spectators are greeted with an extensive array of frameless glazing – a critical design component for spectators and operators.”

VISION

And while sunlight-filled spaces might often test sustainability, here that wasn't an issue.

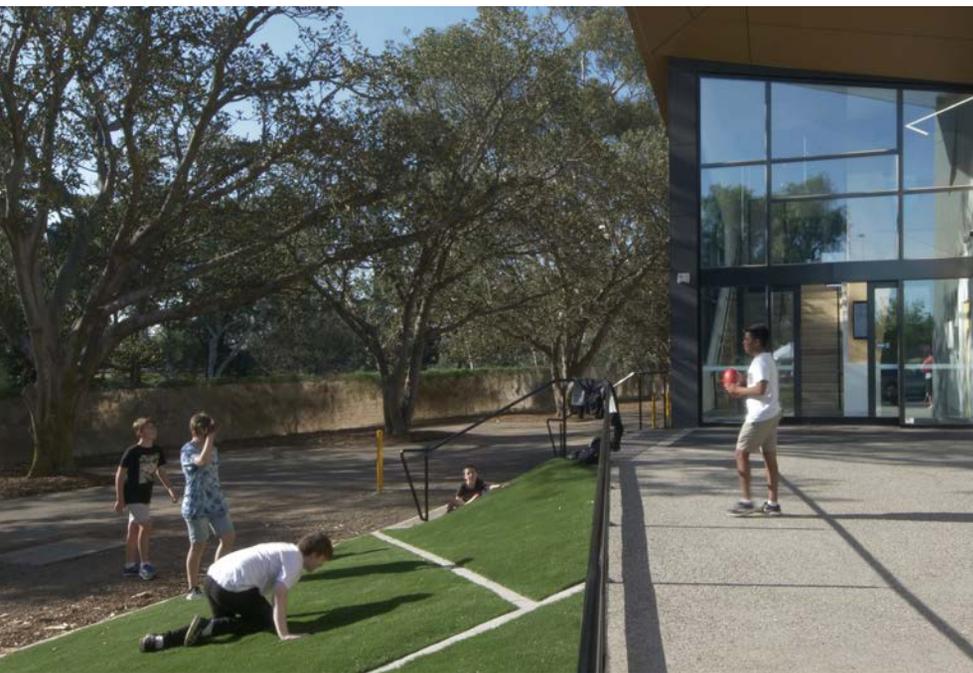
Sustainability was very important. Council certainly wants to see green design in its buildings, so we took a number of measures, including double-glazing throughout using Viridian's EnergyTech™ Clear; there's the thermal mass of concrete blocks on the ground floor; canopies north, east, west, shade to the glazing; and also rainwater re-use for flushing toilets.

How did Viridian's technical support team assist with the result?

Viridian was heavily involved in the design and construction stage. Their people came into our office on a number of occasions and we worked through the specific quality of design as necessary. We wanted large panes of glass that were really pushing the limits and Viridian helped us achieve that, and also achieving our Section J requirements. They were very helpful in figuring that all out, because we had so much glazing and we still had to comply with Section J energy efficiency.







**Why such a wide range of glazing types?**

There were about eight different glazing types used across the project to accommodate all different requirements. Each glazing type had a particular job to perform and so it was reassuring to have that really tailored quality to help achieve the best possible performance from the building.

Any resistance to the idea of architecture as relevant to what could have easily been a far more agricultural result?

We're living in an increasingly design-conscious world, thanks to the Internet, of course, and media, and I think there is a general expectation for better designed buildings and not just a shed. I believe that's what we've provided.

Architecture is often revealed in its details and your glazing is a very elegant, refined arrangement.

The whole glazing design was a critical component of the building. Having the oval for both the public and operators themselves it was absolutely important. The thing we strived for was the removal of any vertical mullions. We had feedback from the club after they did a walk around tour of other pavilions and that was the main comment. In the old social clubroom, views to the ground were obstructed by mullions. We achieved a frameless look across the facade for both the social room and the coach boxes. We worked very closely with Viridian to achieve that through glass sizes and fittings.

“Each glazing type had a particular job to perform and so it was reassuring to have that really tailored quality to help achieve the best possible performance from the building.”

What project feedback are you receiving?

The players are quite excited with their new home. They were working out of a shed for over a year during construction, so they're very happy. They have all of their equipment, a new gym, sled running track and purpose-built amenities.

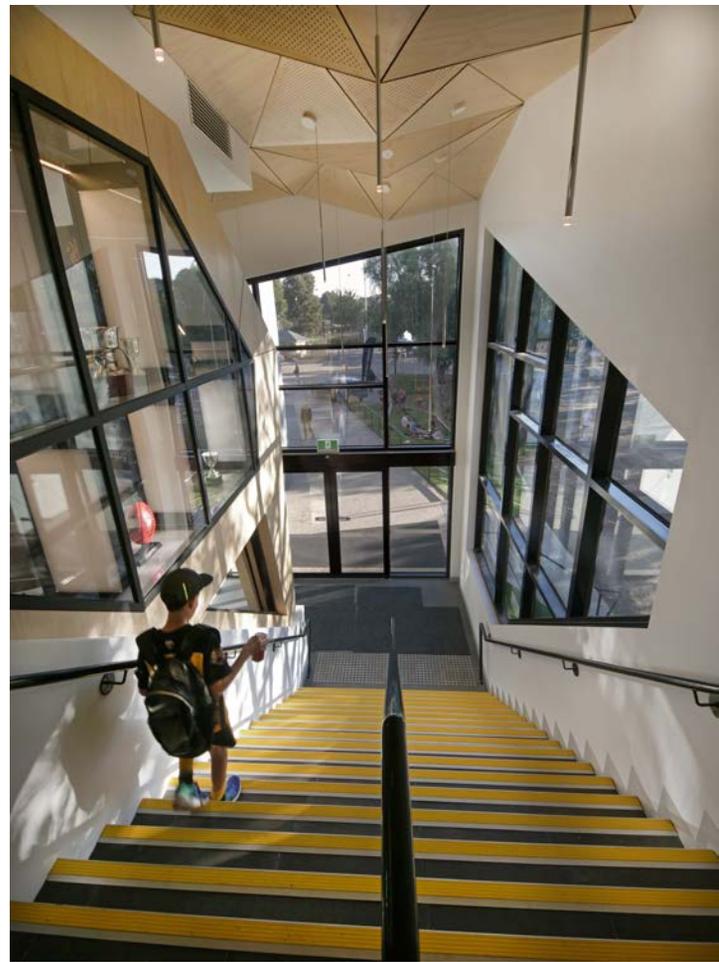
Is there a highlight moment or place?

My favourite part is the social room with that 360 degree view over the oval and around to the river. Its four metre high glazing is just a lovely element. I really like the perspective too, of the coaches' boxes. Because we've done the internal glazing you get a really nice sense of depth through the entire building when looking from one end to the other. The mezzanine allows a bird's eye view for a broadcaster to film the game. It's quite a beautiful view.

Is there anything else you feel is key to your understanding and answers to this project?

The Werribee Tigers will occupy the home wing for a certain part of the year, but because other sporting groups including female and mixed gender teams will also use the facilities, we made the entire building gender equitable. That follows the AFL standard guidelines for female-friendly design and also SRV female-friendly facilities. Basically, it is a pavilion that caters for all genders, all ages and abilities.









“Through the use of glazing on the facade and internally, we managed to provide views of the oval from almost anywhere within the building.”

BOBBIE BRAUN, ARCHITECT

Is there a single lesson you could take away from this project?

I learned how to balance being stubborn while accommodating, because as architects and designers we have a vision of what we want, but need to be flexible enough to accommodate everyone else's needs at the same time. That was quite a fun process actually.

Does it have a projected life-span?

They do want the stadium to last long-term. It was built to accommodate an extension on top of the away teams change area. It's ready to go as soon as they get funding if they want to go down that route. There has been interest in the past from North Melbourne Huddle, for instance. They are occupying part of the building currently – the multi-purpose room. Perhaps, one day, they will carry that building to the end. That would be fantastic to see.

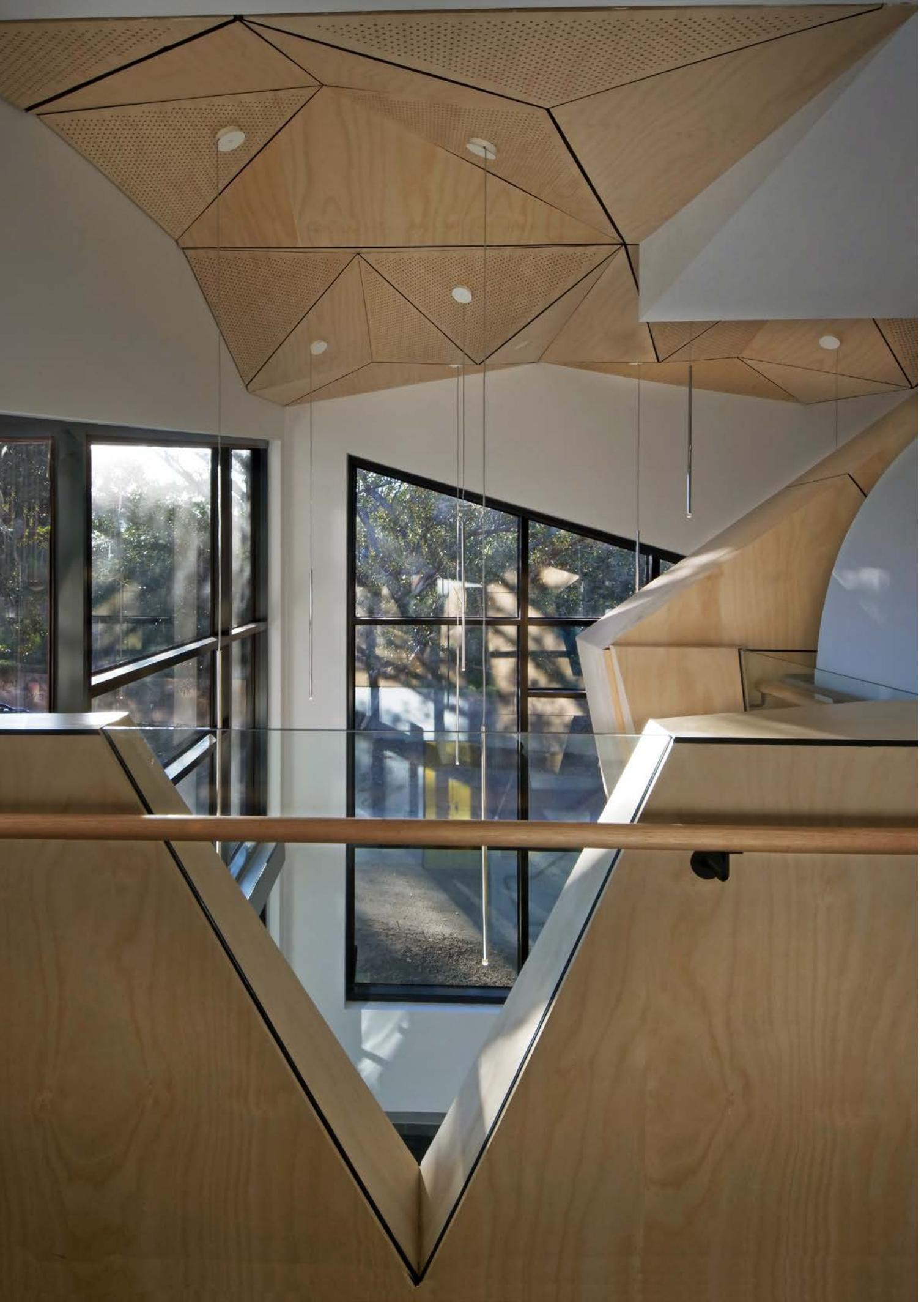
There were so many different voices in your client group at work here, but in the end it is the architects who have to lead.

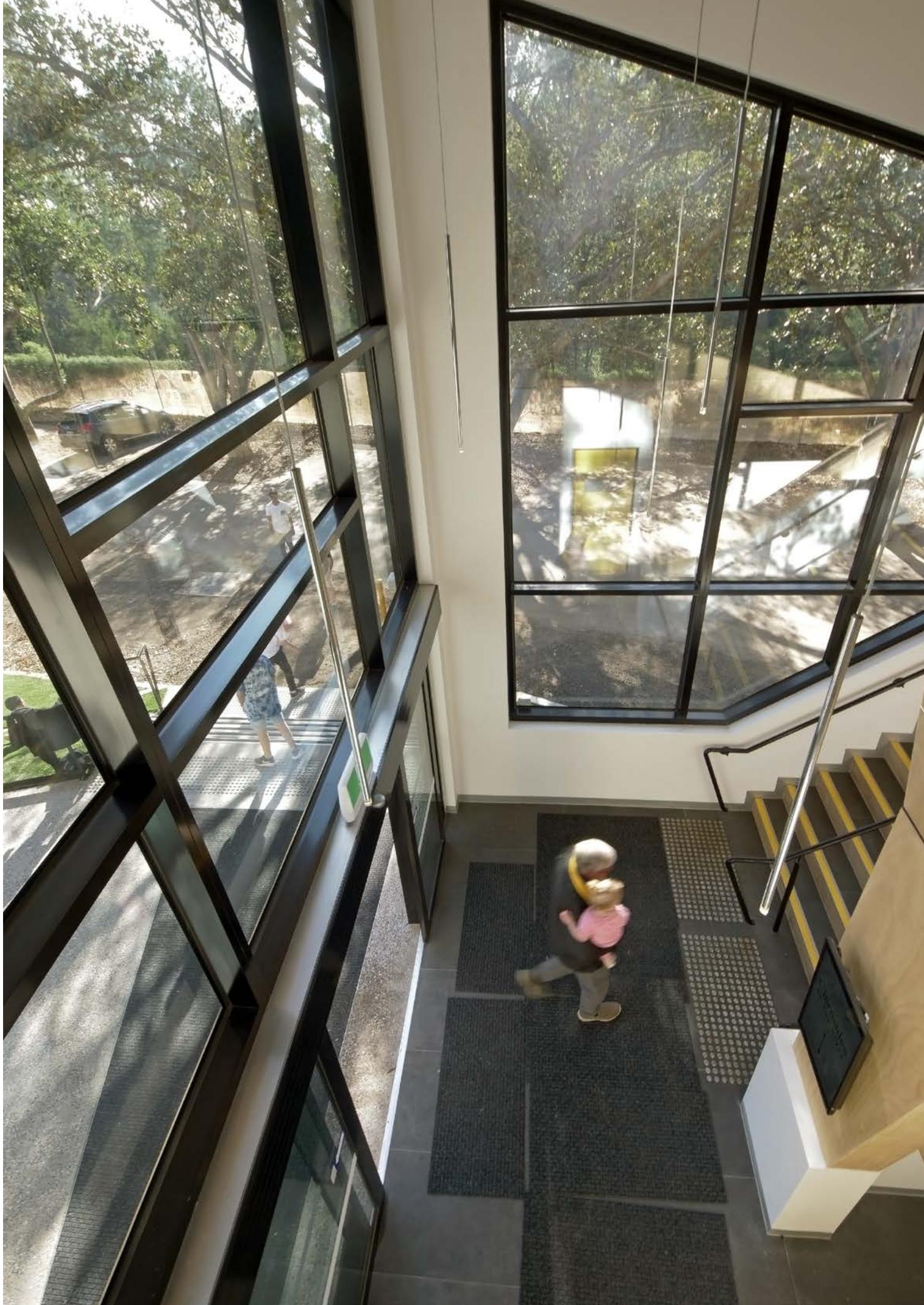
Yes, our role was lead consultant, responsible for coordinating all the consultants' and the clients' needs, and ultimately making sure we end up with a nice design and a cohesive piece of architecture. The consultant team worked extremely hard with us, especially the structural engineer who worked his magic with the three-way cantilevered roof over the social deck and feature fascia that wraps around the building. Glazing of the coaches' boxes is supported from suspended droppers above and those type of structural elements are rather special.

So in the end it's a democratic rather than an authoritarian design?

Yes, absolutely. I would say it was a very democratic process. Teamwork was crucial to the design outcome, and each consultant team member contributed significant time, effort and ideas to the project. Similarly the stakeholders provided valuable insights and feedback, and of course there would be no project without the client group, who surmounted their own obstacles in relation to funding and community support.







**PROJECT**

Werribee Tigers Football Club

CLIENT

Wyndham City Council

STAKEHOLDERS

VFL (Werribee Tigers), AFL,
AFL VIC, VFL, Cricket Victoria,
North Melbourne Huddle

ARCHITECT

JMA Architects
Nick Millar (Associate)
Bobbie Braun
(Design & Coordination)
Lorena Chialchia (Interior Design)

BUILDER

Devco Project & Construction
Management Pty Ltd – Mark Saric
and Sam Maggiore

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

Lambert and Rehbein – Raju Sitoula

FACADE ENGINEER

Richard Drzewucki

WINDOW SUPPLIER

Alfa Glass & Aluminium

GLASS PATCH FITTING

Nupress Group
Stephen Ulness

PRINCIPAL GLASS COMPONENTS

Viridian Custom Laminate

Viridian Double Glazed unit
using EnergyTech Clear

Viridian SpectraPrism™
Arctic Snow

Viridian ComfortPlus Clear

BUDGET

\$11.75 million

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