

ARCHITECTURE IN FOCUS EDUCATION 09

PROJECT

KOLBE COLLEGE
VCE CENTRE, VICTORIA

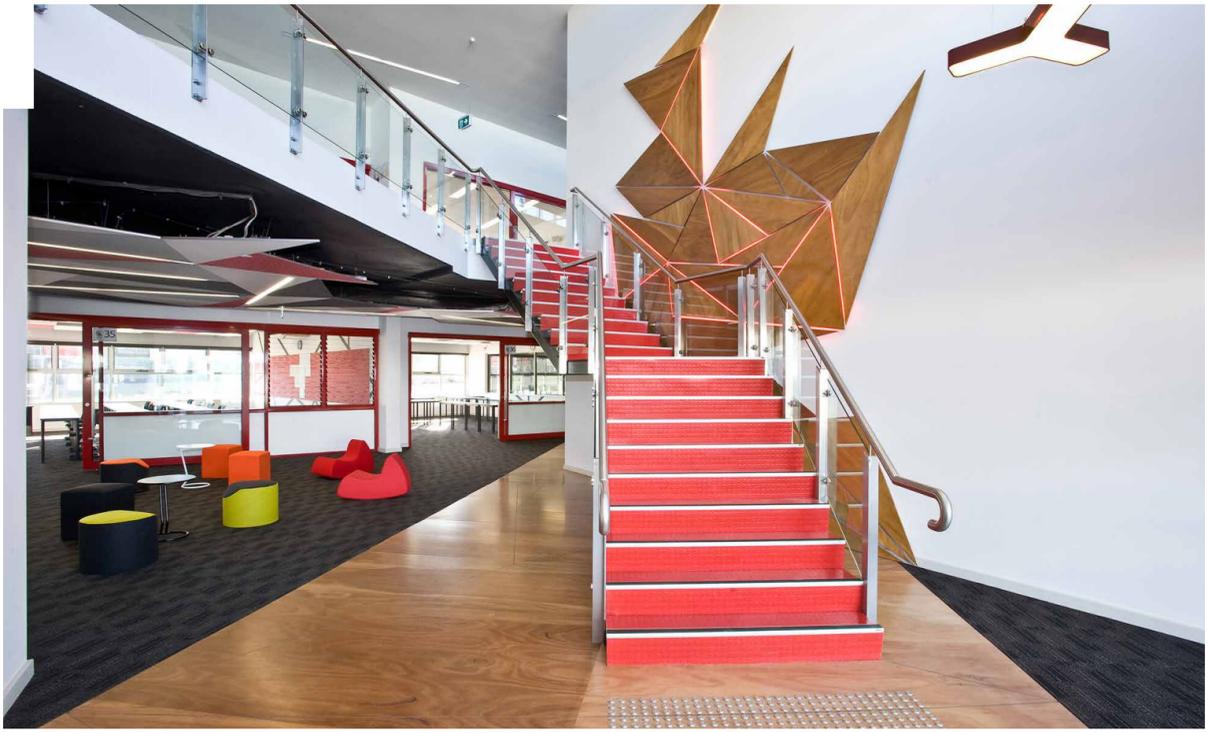
smith+tracey architects



The VCE Centre at Kolbe Catholic College is the new hub for the senior student cohort and represents the respect for their growth and maturity within the school community, as they transition towards the next phase of their learning journey.

The two storey facility incorporates defined senior learning areas grouped around connected central breakout spaces at each level. The generous central areas create a highly flexible use of space that provides the opportunity for casual student interaction, exploratory learning and larger multi-class gatherings. The extensive use of glazed walls and large sliding doors between all primary spaces allows visual transparency and interconnectivity, encouraging an open and honest dialogue to enhance the collaborative learning experience.

A sophisticated and consistent palette of bold colours and finishes has been adopted both internally and externally to achieve a high quality hub for the VCE students. Generous access to natural daylight and ventilation allows a light, bright and fresh environment for healthy discovery and intellectual stimulation. The use of timber plywood flooring and feature wall panelling at the main entry strengthens the buildings identity, reflecting the senior student need for autonomy and encouraging a proud sense of ownership.

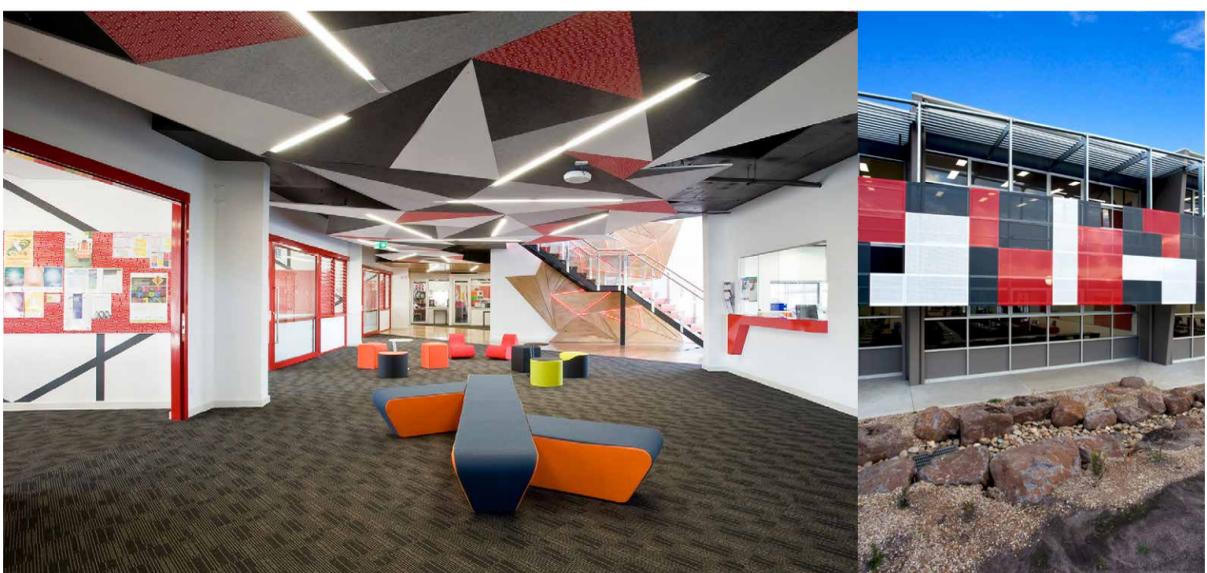


Externally the introduction of colourful interlocking pattern of coloured perforated sun screen panels wrapping across the north facade uniquely identifies this building as something special in the College hierarchy. The careful positioning of sun screen devices to all north, east and west facing fenestration provides control of solar heat gain, whilst maintaining filtered views out.

The external building fabric is heavily insulated, with openable windows throughout offering cross ventilation. The learning area internal glass walls incorporate louvres supporting the vertical 'chimney' ventilation stack effect via the central breakout spaces and large stair voids discharged through high-level clerestory windows. All artificial light fittings were selected for energy efficiency and operated via remote movement sensors.

As a senior level learning environment this Centre helps prepare the VCE students for their journey into tertiary learning by allowing them independence with a stimulating sense of ownership.

Project Director: Gerard Smith
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Project Cost: \$2.90M



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