

Bridgewater Polytechnic

The intent behind the Bridgewater Polytechnic Landscape project in Tasmania is to establish a 'whole site environment' that is environmentally responsive but also an inviting space for the staff, students and visitors.

Tasmanian Polytechnic Forecourt Landscape

The new facilities were placed at a discrete distance from the High School buildings but close enough for the ease of movement of staff and students between the school, the workshops and the administration areas.



Planting and pavement



Entry forecourt seating

RECENT EDUCATION AND INSTITUTION LANDSCAPE WORKS BY URBAN INITIATIVES

Melbourne Grammar School

Steele Oval/
Memorial Hall Forecourt

For over ten years, Urban Initiatives has been involved in a range of landscape projects at Melbourne Grammar School. In 2009 Urban Initiatives were engaged to undertake concept design and documentation services for the forecourt area between the Witherby Tower and Memorial Hall.

The project required careful consideration of circulation, heritage and material selection issues to ensure a flexible use and appropriate urban space is developed for this key central space within the school.



Synthetic sports field



Memorial Hall Courtyard



CAMPUS DESIGN



Urban Initiatives Pty. Ltd. is one of Victoria's most established and respected specialist landscape architecture and urban design practices. We are based in central Melbourne and service clients throughout Victoria and Tasmania. We work for a wide range of private and government clients on a mix of built projects and policy and planning studies.

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Goulburn Street Primary

Multipurpose Hall Courtyard

Goulburn Street Primary School is a heritage listed Department of Education facility which includes an original 1943 building by Tasmanian Architect Sydney Blythe. Sensitivity was given to streetscape, the Sydney Blythe structure and major trees on the site. Limited space necessitated careful integration of new elements.

The new multi-purpose building provides an alternate entry to the school, linking views to two large oak trees and revealing a broad vista toward the city. Pre-cast planters, and seamless pavement materials wrap around the entry creating a playful and inviting welcome.

Working closely with the project architect, two new courtyard spaces were created enabling Disability access to be created on a steeply sloping site, both with protected, north-facing orientation.



Pre-cast Planters and seamless pavement



Multipurpose forecourt



Senior School seating terraces and synthetic sports field



Buckley House seating area

Ivanhoe Grammar School

Sport field terrace seating/ Buckley House seating area

Urban Initiatives has prepared a series of design concepts for upgrades to a number of key external spaces at Ivanhoe Grammar. This includes an upgrade to the entire Ridgeway frontage of the school, the junior assembly area, main bus drop off area, central entrance plaza and several playground areas.

These projects have focused on better integrating the external areas of the school grounds and establishing a consistent suite of quality finishes, outdoor furniture and planting themes.

Several stages of the works have now been constructed with future works to be implemented in stages over the next five years.

Education Environment Design

At Urban Initiatives, we have been designing school environments at many different scales for 30 years. Each school that we work with has its own culture, an important part of which is its built environment and physical setting. In our work we endeavour to build landscapes that give expression to the particular school's values and physical form to its future aspirations.

Our approach to design is informed by an understanding of the central role that the external environment plays in the social, physical and intellectual development of children.

We also strive to balance the provision of complex, stimulating and visually appealing environments with the actual maintenance capacity of different clients.

All work is developed after thoughtful consultation with the school community. The information and ideas gleaned from this process are used to guide a responsive design process. Similarly, we engage seriously with the site conditions of the school, seeking to build a strong relationship between proposed changes and the existing context.

We like to allow space for invention and interpretation within the landscape and play environment, resisting the temptation to be overly programmatic in our design approach.

At a pragmatic level, school environment planning and design must address specific functional and site requirements if it is to achieve safe, workable, aesthetically resolved and well integrated landscaped settings for schools. Site planning must address the current scale and functions found in a school environment but remain flexible enough to allow for future growth or modification. Landscape design should allow for the diversity of spaces and functions that schools require but site them within a coherent and identifiable overall campus landscape.

University of Tasmania Sandy Bay Campus

Central Mall Development

The brief for the University's central mall called on Urban Initiatives to realise the potential of the 'University Heartland'. The University planned a student amenity 'core' that was to be complementary to adjacent functions and facilities. It also had to be safe and barrier-free; a flexible space able to cater for large events and a variety of activities.

Additionally the project aimed to create a space that was inviting and comfortable while demonstrating a high degree of design resolution and finish which would reflect the UTAS 'Edge' agenda, the UTAS 'Brand' and reputation.

The distinction of the project lay in amplifying the unique attributes of the Sandy Bay Campus site, its heritage and setting. The designers were challenged to develop an understanding of the spatial qualities that typically characterise successful, vibrant collegiate spaces.

