



Community Impact:

The various sustainability measures employed on the Tyree Building are directly applicable to similar projects; whether another research and teaching facility or another type of major public building. The approach taken by the Design Team on the sustainable initiatives definitely has the ability to be replicated for future buildings.

For us, environmental sustainable design architecture is an evolution and there is a clear lineage of our buildings dating back to the mid-1990s with The Red Centre at UNSW which has thermal flues actively drawing air through the building, ventilating the rooms while expelling warm air.

For example, we have been developing the thermal labyrinth concept (outlined in the previous section) for a number of years following our first version constructed at Surry Hill Library and Community Centre. Working with the same mechanical engineers (Steensen Varming) the air quality and performance of thermal labyrinth at Surry Hills project was monitored which showed effective tempering of outside air temperature.

When considering the Tyree Building massing, one of our first considerations was to partially submerge the building to take effect of the ground thermal mass. This move was not anticipated in the project Brief (all levels were to be above ground) yet the Design Team convinced the University of the benefits. From our experience on Surry Hills, this enabled us to extrapolate the thermal labyrinth concept to a much larger scale for the Tyree Building but also to be confident in the indoor air quality benefits and performance.

Land Use:

Interwoven with the existing Eucalypts, a series of angular forms open along the Anzac Parade frontage in a distinctive gesture of openness and welcome. These forms create an urban transition, or symbiotic weave, from the street-aligned blocks to the south to the verdant campus landscape to the north. Frontage along the University Mall, designed by Professor Spooner, required a sensitive approach to enhance the character of this significant landscape that is integral to the campus identity. By creating a continuous raised platform with north facing seating steps, it transitions and visually extends the ground plane of the Mall into the building interior.

Overhead a dramatic profiled roof, scaled to float above the tree canopy, establishes a horizontal datum based on the mature height of the Fig and Cottonwood trees along The Mall. To the south, a series of articulated rectilinear forms – reflecting the internal laboratory modules – are set back to extend the street vista of Day Avenue into the site. The eastern laboratory module turns to acknowledge the Village Green orientation.