

Fact sheet: Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (MCA)



View from the Sculpture Terrace featuring the commissioned artwork by Hany Armanious titled *Fountain* (2012). Photograph: Alex Davies

- The MCA began construction of its AU\$53 million redevelopment **in August 2010**. It was unveiled to the public on **29 March 2012**.
- The **Sydney-based** architect was **Sam Marshall** in partnership with the New South Wales Government Architect's Office.
- The MCA redevelopment was made possible as a result of **public and private sector support**. The Federal Government and the NSW State Government contributed \$13 million each. The MCA's Chairman, Simon Mordant, and his family pledged \$15 million. The City of Sydney contributed \$1 million and nearly \$9 million was raised from private donors.
- The redevelopment created an additional **4,500 square metres, increasing the MCA's total size by almost 50 per cent**.
- As well as creating **three spacious new galleries**, the redevelopment involved a **complete refurbishment** of existing facilities. **Gallery space was increased by 26 per cent**.
- The new MCA includes an **entire floor dedicated to the MCA Collection**, offering a major national resource for education and interpretative programs.
- The **rooftop MCA Cafe and Sculpture Terrace** provide a new space for art overlooking Sydney Harbour. Each year an artist is invited to create a site-specific installation to be exhibited for a period of 12 months.
- The **Qantas MCA Lounge** provides an exclusive space for MCA Ambassadors and Qantas Platinum One members to meet, read and relax. Situated on the Museum's ground floor, with a sophisticated loft-style look, the space is fitted out to mirror the high quality of Qantas First Lounges.



Level 2 featuring a centrepiece artwork by Maria Fernanda Cardoso titled *Woven Water: Submarine Landscape I* (2003). Photograph: Brett Boardman

- Located on the expansive new ground floor covered terrace, the **MCA Restaurant** offers all weather relaxed dining and panoramic views over Sydney Harbour.
- The redevelopment created **two new harbour-side venues** which are available for corporate and private hire. Situated on the rooftop of the existing MCA, in the heart of Circular Quay, the venues boast spectacular views across Sydney Harbour. The **Harbourside Room has a capacity of 250 guests and the Quayside Room a capacity of 150 guests.**
- Education is a key element of the redevelopment. The **National Centre for Creative Learning (NCCL)** facilitates the Museum's commitment to innovation and consolidates its role as a leader in contemporary art education.
- Occupying 40 per cent of the new wing, the NCCL features a **dedicated multimedia studio and digital studio, two creative studios for practical activities, the 117-seat Veolia Lecture Theatre**, and a dedicated room for the **MCA's Bella program** for children with specific needs.
- Throughout the building **networked video-conferencing facilities and digital infrastructure** utilising the latest technology enable the MCA to seamlessly engage with classrooms across Australia, providing much-needed virtual resource support to schools in regional and remote Australia, as well as providing new ways of learning for visitors to the MCA.
- Each year **MCA Learning connects with over 38,000 children, young people, adults and people with special needs** through a wide range of activities in and beyond the gallery. Over the last 10 years, there has been an 85% increase in school groups, reflecting how the Museum has embraced learning as an essential strategy for engaging audiences in looking at, thinking about and responding to contemporary art.
- The redevelopment responded to the growing audience for contemporary art, with over **580,000 people visiting the galleries in 2010** and 100,000 using the MCA venues.
- By early October 2012 more than **600,000 visitors** had already walked through the new MCA doors.

BUILDING INFORMATION

AWARDS AND GREEN ENERGY:

In 2009, the MCA won the Lord Mayor's Sustainability Award at the City of Sydney Business Awards. This is among the highest accolades available to Sydney businesses showing leadership in sustainable business practices. The MCA was recognised for its commitment to minimizing its environmental impact, both now and in its future. Environmental sustainability is at the heart of the Museum's redevelopment. The expanded MCA provides Australia with a leading example of a sustainable museum. It operates on a seawater heat exchange with a fully integrated air-conditioning system offering energy savings of up to 30 per cent. Other green initiatives include the installation of ESD compliant lighting, energy monitoring throughout the building, insulation of gallery spaces and rainwater harvesting.



FLOOR BY FLOOR OF THE NEW MCA:

Ground:

Circular Quay entrance offering stairs and lifts to main foyer on level 1
Existing Foundation Hall and MCA Restaurant with new extended terrace,
Conservation, art handling and workshop area, loading dock and car parking
Qantas MCA Lounge

Level 1:

George Street entrance,
Foyer, information and cloakroom
MCA Store
Extension of existing mezzanine galleries and new Level 1 North Gallery

Level 2:

MCA Collection Galleries
Resource Room
Veolia Lecture Theatre
Library
Seminar Room

Level 3:

Galleries including two new naturally lit five-metre high column free galleries
National Centre for Creative Learning, including two creative studios, a digital studio, multimedia studio and Bella room

Level 4:

MCA Cafe & Sculpture Terrace with extensive views across Sydney Harbour
MCA administrative offices.

Level 5:

Commercial tenancies

Level 6:

Two function spaces with partly covered external decks – all with extensive views over Sydney Harbour

CLIENT/ ARCHITECT:

Client: The Museum of Contemporary Art Australia

Architect: Sam Marshall (Architect Marshall) was responsible for the design of the redevelopment, working in close collaboration with the NSW Government Architect's Office in the documentation and construction phase. Marshall commenced private practice in 1989, after graduating from UNSW with honours and working as an associate at Marsh Freedman Associates. Marshall was awarded the 2000 RAIA Wilkinson Award, President's Award for Recycled Buildings and the Conservation Award for his design involving a warehouse conversion in Darlinghurst. He is a recipient of the Dulux Colour Award for Best Interior, the Marrickville Medal and the Byera Hadley Travelling Scholarship, for which he mounted the exhibition "Supermodels". Marshall has been a member of the NSW Ministry for the Arts Capital Infrastructure Committee and a Board Member of the Australian Centre for Photography.

BUILDING INFORMATION

NUMBER OF FLOORS:

Existing Building: 7 floors high
New Building: 5 floors high

FLOOR AREA:

Total Building

Existing building: 9,693 sq metres
Expanded building: 14,193 sq metres
Addition: 4,500 sq metres
46% increase in total space

Total Galleries

Existing gallery space: 2,747 sq metres
Total new gallery space: 3,480 sq metres
Addition: 733 sq metres
26% increase in gallery space

Total Education Spaces

Existing education space: 0
New education space: 1,348 sq metres
Makes up 25% of the total new build

Lecture Theatre

142 sq metres

National Centre for Creative Learning

327 sq metres



EXTERIOR MATERIALS:

The building is clad in GRC (glass reinforced concrete) panels. GRC is essentially precast concrete but steel reinforcement has been replaced with fibreglass to allow very thin and large panels. These panels also clad the roof and parts of the terrace decks. Glass used in the window openings is high performance glass for superior thermal and acoustic insulation.

INTERIOR MATERIALS:

Wherever possible, the concrete superstructure has been exposed on the interiors (for example the lift cores). Gallery walls are painted plasterboard on plywood on stud walls. Otherwise walls are generally painted plasterboard. Ceilings in galleries are painted plasterboard. In public spaces, the ceilings are stepped painted plasterboard to maximise height and in certain areas reveal the concrete super structure. The function spaces on level 6 employ a battened timber ceiling for sound absorption.

ELEVATORS:

Two existing elevators will be refurbished and an additional two new lifts installed.

CONTACTS:

For further information, images or interviews please refer to the following contacts:

Kelly Stone
MCA PR Manager, Sydney
M: + 61 (0) 429 572 869
T: + 61 (0) 2 9245 2434 or
Kelly.Stone@mca.com.au