



COOL SCHOOL

Taylor Robinson and Emco Building create a new High for Harrisdale School

The new Harrisdale Senior School is the first stage in a two stage high school for the Department of Education and will ultimately grow to accommodate up to 1500 students when Stage 2 is finally completed in 2020. Architectural consultant Taylor Robinson (having successfully designed and delivered many new primary and secondary schools over the past 20 years) was awarded this project through a Public Work Tendering process facilitated by Building Management and Works in 2013, and was responsible for the design, documentation and contract administration during construction.



Harrisdale Senior High School is designed to accommodate 750 students in Stage 1 and incorporates an Administration Centre, Resource Centre, Café, Physical Education Centre, a Learning Community (for the first intake of Year 7 students), a Science Block and a Design & Technology Block. The new facilities were to be designed to be robust and low maintenance and to be of a contemporary design to reflect the status of a new secondary school.

With this project, Taylor Robinson was keen to explore methods to simplify floor plans, building footprints and roof forms, combined with more efficient construction detailing to save time and cost whilst still delivering a contemporary state of the art education facility. From an architectural point of view, the design was conceived as a series of individual buildings that have a public side and a private side. The public facades of the buildings are comprised of bold sections of patterned face brickwork while on the facades of the

THE TEAM

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buildings facing in to the heart of the school the architecture becomes more lightweight with less brickwork and more exposed structural steelwork and cladding materials. The building design is complimented with colours that were derived from those found in the flora and fauna in this native bushland setting.

Externally, Taylor Robinson combined Colorbond metal roofing, exposed face brickwork, lightweight wall cladding, prefinished CFC panels, aluminium sunscreen panels and exposed aggregate coloured concrete paving. More specifically, the buildings were designed with a bold brickwork pattern incorporating Flemish bond brickwork in select areas and brightly coloured aluminium screens were incorporated to conceal roof mounted mechanical plant and for sun-screening elements to main Library building in the heart of the campus. The bold architectural language with its face brick patterning, striking roof profiles and use of coloured screens to

conceal roof mounted evaporative cooling plant and for sun-screening on the two storey library building create a contemporary architecture befitting a state-of-the-art secondary school.

From a sustainability aspect, the project targeted a 4 Star GreenStar equivalent through the use of initiatives such as low embodied energy building materials (e.g. carpet tiles and marmoleum floor finishes), roof mounted photo voltaic cells (to contribute power back to the grid), low energy light fittings in all teaching areas and administration offices and low flush toilet systems to student and staff toilets.

The construction of the five highly specialised secondary school buildings included high spec classrooms, science rooms, library facilities, separate drama and arts studio, machine rooms, workshops, health education facilities, a sports hall, a variety of common facilities and quality external landscaped areas.



The new school was constructed within a tight time frame of 59 calendar weeks in order to be ready in advance of the new school year in 2017. To provide sufficient time for the school to be built, a forward works package was let for the earthworks on this greenfield site. The construction contract for Harrisdale Senior High School was placed to tender early 2015 by Building Management and Works and awarded to EMCO Building in mid-2015.

Incorporated in 1986 EMCO is recognised as a major contractor in the WA Commercial construction sector – including but not limited to Retail, Sporting Facilities, Education (both Private and Public and including Primary, Secondary and College/University), Health & Aged Care, Apartment & Multi Residential, Heritage, and multi-residential building sector, offering the full range of services from refurbishment through to large-scale new builds and their associated infra structure packages – so the company was well suited to deliver this project. Irrespective of the project type and size, EMCO remains focused on its core objective which is to provide a high quality building service at all times ... something EMCO has certainly done on this project.

Apart from the architecturally designed buildings, the school also comprises beautiful hard and soft landscaped areas and pristine oval and sports facility, high quality external areas including granite pavements, imported benches, tables and table tennis facilities – which all formed part of EMCO's construction scope. Given the

volume of works that were required to be completed over such a short period of time, the project required attention from the EMCO project management and construction team. Daily site numbers ranged anywhere from 150 to 220 people for the full duration of the works.

The site programming of the works was critical in the success of project and is a testament to EMCO's site manager, Robert Woods. Site works revolved around micro managing all trades right down to material delivery times, arrival and departure times of working trades, large structural element deliveries and concrete pour schedules. Programming of the works was required to also allow EMCO to pre-fabricate and procure items for the project so as to ensure that key build elements are detailed, reviewed and fabricated in line with programme's



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Harrisdale School **THE BUILDERS CHOICE**



requirements. Of particular note was the quantity of feature face brickwork required to be laid. To complete this work, EMCO employed over 30 bricklayers on site consistently for over 5 months. More than 1.1 million brick were laid.

EMCO completed the Harrisdale Senior High School on program by the end of September 2016. This allowed the school ample time to move in and get established well in advance of the arrival of the first intake of Year 7 students on February 1st 2017, at a final value of around \$40,000,000. The result is an exciting and robust facility for students, staff and visitors alike. The new school also provides the community with an iconic development which will set a new standard for architecture and construction in the area.

EMCO Building currently has a number of substantial projects under construction – Claremont Football Club, Kolbe Catholic College, HBF Arena, Hale Junior School, The Bottle Yard Apartments, Murdoch Bush court Student Hub, Wellard Primary School, Wandi Primary School, Charles Street Apartments, John Wollaston Anglican Community School and Challenger Institute TAFE Murdoch.



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